THE EYE

The definitive guide to the arts - and **Eddie Izzard**



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THE LONG WEEKEND

Uncorking fun with Santa, guys and doils

THE MAGAZINE



Major's message of doom for EU

and Sarah Helm

The European Union faced political break-up and economic disaster if it took the wrong decisions on integration and the single currency, John Major said last night. The implicit threat was that a Conservative government could leave the EU if it decided to go down the wrong road.

His threats were delivered at The Dublin summit after President Jacques Chirac of France suggested his colleagues should throw away their prepared briefs on the future direction of the union. Mr Major said he had been presented with two false choices: a choice between po-litical union and a free-trade area. Britain wanted neither.

The Prime Minister said that unless proper flexibility was provided for development of the union, with groups of countries being allowed to go their own way on different issues, it would face grave problems. Countries like Britain would not be forced into unattractive and unappealing action. And if the wrong decisions were taken, "it would blow the European Union wide

Some of the suggestions on the table were not acceptable. An unemployment chapter was "unattractive" and would not create a single job. He would not accept the argument that the union would grind to a halt if enlarged without an extension of qualified majority voting.

As for the single currency, Mr Major said it would be the "most far-reaching decision". which would "dwarf" earlier ones. But he added: "Insisting on a particular timetable is not sensible and can end in disaster". That disaster would follow countries going into a single currency without being ready when the only safety-valve will

be higher unemployment". The summit took two further significant steps, when specimen samples of the euro note were issued - with blank spaces for national symbols like the Queen's head - and heads of government agreed the disci-plinary torms that will be used to back the single currency.

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said of the code, which will bring in fines for recalcitrant single-currency members: 'This means that the Euro will be a strong currency."

In spite of advances made on the single currency, the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, said the election of the Labour leader, Tony Blair, as prime minister would provide Europe with a positive new contribution from Britain. That rare and diplomatically embarrassing intervention in domestic British politics by the EU's Irish presidency gave the Foreign Secre-tary, Malcolm Rifkind, the opportunity to reply that Europe was indeed waiting for Mr Blair - because he was "naive", "inexperienced", and "silly." He was a soft option who would surrender so much that Mr Major,

that if the Conservative Party did not soon sort out its differences, it would lose the election. He added later that a Labour-

to a significant section of rebels. "There is no doubt that some of the socialist countries would prefer to deal with a socialist

ernment that wants to make a positive contribution to the development of the European Union. Certainly, Mr Blair is ex-pressing a confidence, and the Labour Party is very united in relation to positions on the European Union. Regressibly, the Conservative Party is very divided. It does put them in a very invidious position. I can say this as leader of a party which had problems with Europe back in the 1980s - the Irish Labour Party. You're obviously in a far more difficult position if you are worried about anything you may say, or any initiatives you may take, if there is a large segment within your party that has problems with it. And that is the existing situation within the

QUICKLY

McLibel trial record Britain's longest ever trial drew to a close vesterday. Helen Morris and David Steel defended themselves in a libel case brought by the fast-food multinational McDonald's that was in court for 313 days and became a counter-culture cause celebre. Judgment is not expected until Easier at the carliest

Major will soldier on John Major will be able to soldier on until an election date of his own choosing, he claimed yesterday. "I have no doubt, providing people behave themselves, we can get through to our preferred date," he said in



Conservative Party." CONTENTS

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Microbial information statemate ended yesterday when Koff Annan, a 58-year-old Chanaian, was anointed as the Secretary-General of the Interview .24

had so stoutly defended. But Mr. Rifkind conceded.

win was possible. Mr. Spring said the Ibry split was forcing Mr. Major to protect his back, continually deferring As for Mr Major, he said: government in the United King-dom; that is certainly the case."

However, the evidence from Dublin yesterday was that Mr Blair's arrival at No 10 was askeenly anticipated by non-socialist countries like Germany and France, which have become impatient with Mr Major's vacillation on issues like BSE, and his near-total intransigence on key elements of the new treaty being considered by EU leaders.

Mr Spring told BBC Radio: "We want to see a British gov-

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David Usborne New York An international diplomatic

Colin Brown Michael Streeter and David McKittrick

IRA bombing campaign.

Security forces are on alert throughout the United Kingdom amid fears of a new

There has been greater vig-ilance at key sites such as the City and the Canary Wharf

complex in London and military

installations across the country.

ern Ireland and at Westminster

have been warned they could be

And in recent weeks securi-

ty has also been increased at po-

tential targets in Northern

Ireland, including at Alder-

The threat was underlined

grove Airport, near Belfast.

assassination targets.

Senior politicians in North-

wanted to stay on for a second five-year term, but was forced finally to stand down after

Banking on change: The euro notes unveiled yesterday, from the 500 down to the 5

when the IRA tried but failed

on Wednesday to blow up a se-curity forces vehicle in Belfast

with a Semtex-filled mortar.

This week, in the run-up to

Christmas, the head of Scotland

Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch,

Commander John Grieve,

warned of these "dangerous

months" and urged people to be

"Unfortunately it is a reality

of life that we need to be con-

tinually aware of the threat of

terrorism, particularly from the

Tony Blair, on a visit to

Provisional IRA," he said.

Northern Ireland vesterday.

emphasised that he would not

play politics with the peace process and promised that in of-

on their guard.

UK braced for IRA attack

fice he would be "straining it is failing. Of course we keep every sinew" to move it forward. in touch with David and his par-

In an old-fashioned diplomatic spat, France, angered at Washington's stance, had been determined to support the incumbent, and to resist the appointment of Mr Annan. Yesterday, however, France de-

UN agrees at last on new leader cided that it would withdraw its veto against him. Mr Annan seems set to repressure from the United ceive bouquets and brickbats in

The Labour leader stuck to his approach of keeping his par-ty's approach closely aligned to the Government on questions

such as the possibility of a new

IRA ceasefire and of Sinn Fein's

He visited the constituencies

of the three main parties, meet-

ing the Ulster Unionist leader

David Trimble, Seamus Mallon

of the SDLP and Peter Robin-

son of the Democratic Union-

Mr Blair said he was doing

everything possible to defeat the

Government, but denied he

was courting Mr Trimble. He added: "I will try anything I can

because it is my duty to bring

this government down because

entry into talks.

equal measure from the rest of § the world, as has become traditional for holders of the post. The choice of Mr Annan is likely to be made official by the UN's General Assembly on Monday or Tuesday



Kindly Kefi, page 12 Annan: French withdrew veto

Seven notes that bring one currency

Sarah Helm Dublin

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Photograph: PA

ty and will continue to do so."

Other police forces are also showing extra vigilance. A

spokesman for Greater Man-

chester Police, which had to deal

with a devastating IRA bomb in

June, said it was deploying a

"high-profile" police presence

Cabinet ministers believe the

IRA will put off a renewal of the

ceasefire until days before a gen-

eral election to put the maxi-

roum pressure on Mr Blair and

a possible incoming Labour

hopes of an extended ceasefire

at Christmas will be dashed by

the IRA. One minister said:

"They have become highly ac-

tive and are clearly planning

They are convinced that

to reassure the public.

government.

#1 29001 E55 c2#

John Major has said he wants to "wait and see" before he decides whether to join mone-

tary union. Yesterday, he (and everybody else) could see just what the shape and size of a single currency will be, though a British decision on membership seemed as far away as ever.

Depicting bridges between nations and gateways to the future, Europe's new Euro bank-notes were unveiled "at the dawning of a new common

Europe". But what is this new common Europe? According to the map on the notes parts of Finland are missing. Russia is there, but Turkey is not. Britain is clearly part of Europe but looks somewhat mis-shapen. The Sher-lands are missing and Wales will be unhappy with its bulge. There are no people in this

future Europe; the designs show monuments and bridges but no Europeans.

"The difficulty with people," said Alexander Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, fore-runner is that people usually belong to a country ... As for the shape of Europe, Mr Lamfalussy admitted: "A few

not all the countries are entirely covered." But, he added, optimistically, "the geography will be sorted out". Reaction to the designs was generally favourable. Pretty. as a milestone. Although the

islands have disappeared and

another. The faces of the notes, in seven denominations from 5 to 500 Euro, depict windows and gateways from the seven "ages" of including classical, baroque and modern 20th century. The reverse side shows a bridge design from the same periods.

None of the pictures, however, shows an identificable European monument. All are an amalgam of different European styles.

The name, euro, appears in both the Latin and Greek alphabet. An Austrian artist, Robert Kaliena, won the contest for the note design after each member state submitted its own offerings,

The most contentious issue of whether a national symbol will appear on the notes, re-mains to be decided.

One-fifth of the note's reverse side has been left clear for such an eventuality, but the Oueen will not know if she is to appear until the middle of next

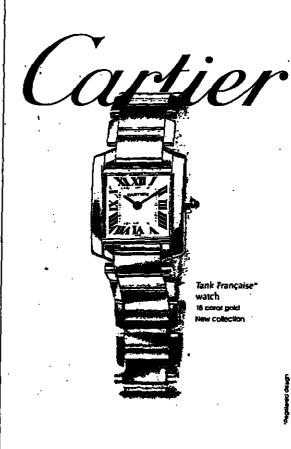
Close by, at Dublin Castle Europe's heads of government at theirt summit meeting were having difficulty sketching out their future map of Europe.

How many countries will be "in" or "out" of the Euro-zone remained as unclear as ever. But Europe's leaders were able to proclaim a breakthrough in ilding the architecture single currency zone.

Agreement on the stability pact, which will govern eco nomic policy after the creation of the euro,, will be taken as yet another sign of Europe's political will to launch the Euro in

Mr Lamfalussy proclaimed Stylish. Very European," were notes will not start circulating some comments. "Bland." was until 2002, yesterday's date was he said, of "major historic significance.

It seemed to have escaped Mr Lamfalussy's notice that the notes were bing launched on European cultural history, Friday 13th.



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E. coli infection spreads to nurse

Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

A nurse has contracted poisoning by E. coli bacteria while treating victims struck down by the epidemic sweeping central Scotland, health officials confirmed last night.

Despite wearing a protective mask, gloves and clothing, the nurse at Falkirk Royal Infirmary fell ill last Tuesday after caring for two patients on a ward. She is now recovering at home, but the fact that she was poisoned simply from contact with the pa-

tients demonstrates how infectious E.coli 0157 can be.

Retailer's box no.

We believe this is a cross-infection from contact with patients rather than contact with infected food and it has caused us all some distress," Douglas Harper, the hospital's medical director, said. "It has certainly acentrated our minds on how

infectious this organism is."

Details of the auxiliary nurse's condition were released within hours of Sir David Carter, Scotland's chief medical officer, telling journalists that the outbreak would soon be over. The total number of those nfected is just below 400 and 11 people have died, but for two days running, there had been no new cases reported.

However, before the nurse's condition was made public, Sir David said: "We are particularly concerned now about the danger of secondary spread from one individual to another. That has not materialised as a major problem in this outbreak but I think the more days that go by the more confident one will be in saying that this outbreak is not just contained now, it is now over. The correct word at present I think is the word contained. "When we get into next week, towards the end of next week.

if there are no new cases then

would interest you. If you do not with to receive these mellings, please tack this box

I think we could be confident in saying that it was over.". The nurse, who has not been named, was part of the bospital's team handling the E.coli outbreak. During the past few weeks, the team had treated 18 patients but only two

were remaining when she became ill last Tuesday. "She is fine now, but we are concerned that she became in"We practice barrier nursing, which involves wearing a mask, gloves and protective clothing. However, not to be too indelicate, a lot of diarrhoea is involved. Some of the people affected are quite debilitated and caring for them requires a lot of personal hygiene. Some-how, this nurse, who is very experienced, accidentally became exposed and was inadvertently

infected. It is a warning to people at home - good personal hygiene can stop this spreading.

Earlier, Michael Forsyth, the

fected at all," Mr Harper said. Secretary of State for Scotland, travelled to Aberdeen with Sir David to meet Profes sor Hugh Pennington, the man in charge of medical inquiries into the outbreak.

Sir David said: "Mr Forsyth promised unlimited resources to Professor Pennington and his team, saying they had done "detective work which Sherlock Holmes would be proud of 'He added: "As far Professor Pennington's lab is concerned, of course we will provide help and support. Whatever he wants he will get."

significant shorts

Helicopter crash claims three pilots

A civilian helicopter which went missing with three English pilots on board, prompting a major search, was yesterday found crashed in mountains in the Irish Republic.

Coastguards in Kilkeel said the missing SK76 crashed in Carlingford Mountains, Co Louth. All three pilots were believed to be dead. Two bodies were found in the wreckage, cycwitnesses said. The third pilot was

Internet child porn sentence

A man was jailed for two years yesterday after he admitted distributing child

pornography on the Internet. Christopher Wells, 27, had more than 1,100 pictures Birmingham Crown Court was told. Wells, of Lawling Avenue, Maldon, in Essez, admitted possessing indecent photographs of children and distributing them between March and August this year.

Priest jailed

A Roman Catholic priest who systematically abused boys and girls over a 14-year period was jailed for twoand-a-half years vesterday at Belfast Crown Court

Father Joseph Steele, originally from the Newlodge area of north Belfast, had admitted a total of 25 charges of indecent assault involving three boys and seven girls between September 1969 and December 1983.

'Giant sewage tank' outrage

Environmentalists and politicians yesterday criticised Home Office plans to moor a prison ship in Portland:Harbour alongside special conservation area.

Priends of the Earth said ... the five-deck ship, which 👾 . could held 500 introdes, halamounted to "a giant sewage tank" *Ian Burrel*l

Judge condems 'perverted and evil teenager'

A "thoroughly perverted and evil" teenager who raped a 93-year-old widow in a churchyard was yesterday ordered to be detained

for 12 years. Judge Anthony Thorpe told Steven Barton, 17: "The offence ... is so appalling as to make the blood of every right-thinking person in this country run cold."

Barton, who was 15 at the time of the offence, in September last year, was convicted or raping the widow by a jury at Chicheste Crown Court. He had attacked the woman when she visited a plaque in memory of her late husband in St Mary's churchyard, Storrington, West Sussex.

Fraud claims at Hacknev

A formal challenge to the accounts of Hackney Council the troubled London borough hit by Labour group splits and allegations of fraud and racism, was made yesterday to the district auditor, Chris Koelhi.

Simon Matthews, Labour housing spokesman for the area, made allegations of for child abuse corruption against fellow councillors. Steve Boggan

Four years for cannabis man

A drug grower who catalogued his crop of 845 cannabis plants in a book headed "Captain's Log, Stardate January 1995, Planet Earth," was jailed for four years today. Robin Scott, 47, was sentenced at Truro Crown Court.

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Chauffers half strike action

The first ever strike by ministers' chauffeurs scheduled to start on Monday - has been postponed for seven days. The Government has increased its pay offer from 2.3 per cent to just under three per cent. Negotiations are to resume on Monday. Barrie Clement

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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BBC

Security bill hits Pregnant terror suspect nursery cash

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Military salute: Cadets passing out at the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst in Surrey yesterday. At the ceremony, reviewed by the Duchess of Gloucester, 700 officer cadets were on parade, 212 of whom were being commissioned into the Army, as were 22 cadets from overseas

Photograph: David Rose

The Government has scrapped plans to bring in nursery ouchers in Northern Ireland next year, prompting renewed claims from Labour that the cheme is collapsing.

Higher spending on security in the province following the ending of the IRA ceasefire early this year has forced education budget cuts, according to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary

of State for Northern Ireland. Withdrawing the vouchers, due to be introduced next September, will save £8.3m a year. Announcing a £60m cut in education spending, Sir Patrick said: "The peace dividend has, alas, been reversed and this obviously has an adverse effect on the provision of public services in Northern Ireland." An extra

£120m was being channelled into law and order and compensation for criminal damage

during 1997-98, he said. The decision puts Northern Ireland out of step with the mainland, where nursery vouchers are due to be launched in April. Labour seized on the reversal as evidence of a breakdown of the controversial preschool vouchers scheme. Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, said: "The bureaucracy of vouchers is such that even some ministers now

realise it makes more sense to provide real nursery places." The latest blow to the nursery voucher scheme comes just weeks after a Budget an-nouncement of a £56m cut in the money promised on the grounds that pilot schemes showed it was unlikely there would be 100 per cent take-up.

'could lose her baby'

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The terrorism suspect Roisin McAliskey yesterday failed to secure bail while awaiting extradition to Germany after a medical report warned she could lose her unborn child. Gareth Peirce, her solicitor, told Bow Street magistrates' court that Ms McAliskey's medical needs had been ignored, despite the instructions of Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magis-

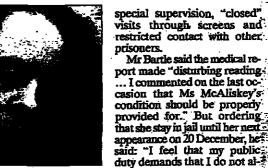
trate, at her last appearance that she be well care for. The doctor's report said that she showed signs of "advanced starvation" due to repeated vomiting, had no access to natural light and was in danger of losing her baby, Ms Peirce said. The German government is



Roisin McAliskey: Starving

daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey, in the wake of the June mortar attack on British Army barracks in Osnabrück.

Ms McAliskey is being held as a high security prisoner at Holloway women's prison, north London. Her classification would mean she is subject to



ter the previous ruling." A Prison Service spokesman said Ms McAliskey was taken to

a London hospital on 5 Deexamination by a consultant obstetrician. "He confirmed that she was in good general health, that her 10-week pregnancy was progressing normally and that there was no cause for concern."

Help for child victims

Glenda Cooper

As abuse scandals continue to be exposed in children's homes around the country, we would like you to support our Victims of Abuse appeal to help those who have been made to suffer. Earlier this year, the toll of

years of abuse for more than 100 children in Clwyd was highlighted in this newspaper. The investigation was the launch-pad for a campaign that won government action to tight-

This week we revealed that police are seeking 3,000 children than 120 projects throughout England, Wales and Northern who may have been part of Ireland, offering counselling

en standards in children's

Our Christmas appeal is in support of work by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, including its helpline, giving direct support to children who have been abused, and projects to help prevent future abuse.

Countless stories from children, in the community as well as in residential care, have never been heard. The NSPCC, Britain's leading charity specialising in child protection and revention of cruelty, runs more

another scandal, in the North- and therapy to abused chil-west. and therapy to abused chil-dren as well as carrying out its own investigations into allega-tions of abuse.

The charity relies on public donations for 85 per cent of its income and we would like you to contribute between now and

Your money will go to help projects such as the NSPCC's freephone helpline which takes on average 1,200 calls a week, the London Investigation Team, which works with police and social services to investigate paedophiles, and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle, which treats children who have abused





End of an era: the Waleses divorced; the Jottery was born; OJ went free – after 313 days in court, McLibel draws to a close

Britain's longest-ever trial has finally sighed to a close after 313 days. Now all that is awaited after yesterday's closing speches is the judgement from Mr Jus-tice Bell, and that is not expected until Easter at the ear-

The defendants, the weary and impecunious "McLibel Two", are not optimistic about the judge clearing them of li-belling McDonald's. But Helen Morris and David Steel are talking about mounting an ap-peal if he finds in favour of the

Quick-fried guide to McDonald's

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■ The McLibel case found its way into the record books by becoming the longest-running civil trial of all time in the UK The previous longest was 103 courtroom days: In March 1872; Arthur Orton lwas convicted on two counts of perjury for claiming to be Roger Tichborne, brother of Baronet Alfred Tichborne. (Source: Guinness Book of Records, 1996) ■ Linda McCartney, wife of

ex-Beatle Paul, has contributed £1,000 to the ■ McDonalds is estimated to

be paying £4000 a day on legal costs. Total costs could exceed £5m. McDonald's had to pay out

\$2.9Million to an 81-year old-woman in Alberquerque U.S. The lady claimed to have been scalded by its coffee. The company's law rm found that the coffee was bured at 82 degrees centigrade because

\$3 billion-a year hamburger multinational, and if that fails of taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights. They claim the trial, which has taken place without a jury, has been oppressive.

The two, who have defended themselves in the absence of legal aid, made closing speeches which occupied more than six weeks. Richard Rampton QC, counsel for McDonald's, has handed in 550 pages of sub-

missions. And so the final day stuttered out with a series of points of law from both sides. Mr Justice Bell made no secret of his fatigue. When ex-postman David Morris spoke about something that happened in the years of pre-trial manoeuvrings the

judge said: "This was in the happy days when I knew nothing about this case."

All those months in court have turned neither Ms Steel nor Mr Morris, both unemployed, into smooth-tongued lawyers. "So, um, there you go..." was how he concluded one

But their fortitude in refusing to apologise and to take on the task of defending themselves at London's Royal Courts of Justice have made them into counter-culture heroes. They have cost McDonald's a fortune and gained huge publicity for their allegations against the burger chain on the Internet and in press reports around the world. They have become minor celebrities, but it shows no sign of going to their heads. They remain ordinary, rather serious, old-fashioned anarchists.

At lunchtime, as usual, the two defendants and a few supporters went to a student café in the nearby London School of Economics. Meanwhile Mr Rampton's team spurned the delights of the nearest Mc-Donald's and took their permanently-booked lunchtime places at an Italian restaurant.

Mr Rampton, one of Britain's top libel lawyers, told The Independent that Ms Steel and Mr Morris' amateur status had slowed down the case considerably. "It proceeds so much more slowly ... it's frustrating in that respect." But his long, long sojourn in Court 35 was no great personal strain. "We're paid to do a job, so it really doesn't mat-

Paid handsomely, in fact: McDonald's legal fees will run to several million pounds and if the judge does award costs and damages against the two de-fendants they have next to nothing to hand over.

McDonald's claims Mr Morris, a 42-year-old single parent, and Ms Steel, aged 31, were leading lights in the publication and distribution of a leaflet which said that eathird McDonald's food could cause bowel and breast cancer and heart disease. The leaflet also alleged staff az the thairiwere exploited, ill-paid and would be dismissed if they tried to join a trade union, and that the production of McDonald's food caused hunger in the Third World and the destruction of rainforests. At the top of the leaflet were the words: "Mc-Cancer, McDisease, McHunger and McDeath." The defendants, both unem-

ployed and reliant on state benefits, deny publishing the leaflet but argue that its contents are true. Three other leafleteers whom McDonald's issued writs against in 1990 apologised, but not the McLibel Two. There have been 130 witnesses crossexamined, and 50 others have submitted statements. "We say the evidence vindicated us on all of the issues raised in the leaflet," said Mr Morris outside the court.



■ Provisional IRA started and ended its

■Eurostar services started through **Channel Tunnel ■**OJ Simpson's trial started and ended in acquittal ■The Oklahoma bombing killed 168

■Sixteen Primary School children and their teacher killed at Dunblane ■Hugh Grant arrested on indecency charge in Los Angeles

■Rosemary West jailed **Cronwell Street murders ■The National Lottery started** ■Pop group Take That split up

David Liewellyn

to death outside his school

President Mitterrand died of cance

aged 79
The Prince and Princess of Wales

It's just not cricket:

Labour's 'Today' vote angler is civil servant

Christian Wolmar and John Rentoul

Labour yesterday launched an internal investigation into the attempt by party workers to rig nominations for the BBC Today Personality of the Year

It emerged last night that Jules Hurry, the woman in whose name the fax requesting party workers to nominate Tony Blair for the award was sent, is a civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture.

It will compound embarrassment in the party over the affair, which wiped the fact that the Tories now have a minority government off the front pages of some newspapers.

it became clear yesterday that the Than was part of a "fish-farming" exexcise to try to influence phone-in programmes, local newspapers and other media by getting Labour supporters to brite or phone. There is a section, taffed by two volunteers, at the par-'s HQ with the task of carrying out is work, called the "Audience Par-

tination Unit". The official version was that the unit "reactive rather proactive" and arely "helps Labour supporters who and to write to newspapers or get their

ws across in other ways." But a former Labour party worker ed that there was a concerned attempt b influence media. He said: "It was filed fish farming. That was the code same for doing things that were a same for doing things that were a same parties, campaign headquartes in

He said that the party ran an op-



Tony Blair: Did not make shortlist

eration during the 1987 election campaign to organise people to take part in phone-ins. However, the scheme was dropped after a woman who had harangued a Tory minister became the subject of tabloid investigations.

Another Labour insider said: "The key to these operations was to never write anything down. It should always be done by word of mouth." He said there was no doubt that the Tories did this sort of thing all the time, but "they are a bit cleverer than us in the way they go about it."

Yesterday Tory Central Office refused to deny that it had also massim-

ilar exercises.

Asked about allegations by a torner
Welsh Tory, Elwyn Jones, that the Tories had done the same thing two years ago when John Major, at the nadir of his popularity, came second

to the late Roy Castle, a spokesman said: "These are allegations by a dis-

The Today award now appears so flawed that the BBC will consider scrapping it. Mr Major, who has been shortlisted again, finished second in the past two years, despite the fact that his party trailed well behind Labour in polls throughout that period. In the Eighties, Margaret Thatcher won the award for woman of the year eight

times out of nine. While the Princess Royal was the other winner, it may have been quiet efforts by Central Office that ensured she saw off what must have been strong competition from the Queen and the Princess of Wales.

Mr Blair, who did not make the shortlist anyway, said the person involved had tried to drum up support through an "excess of zeal". He told the Today programme: "As soon as we learned about it, it was stopped."

Labour also attempted to sow confusion about how exactly the exercise was carried out. Labour's election supremo, Peter Mandelson, denied Ms Hurry was responsible for the vote-rig-

ging drive. He said it was not her but "another, more junior, member of staff" who was behind it. However, he refused to elaborate on the identity of the person responsible. In a damage-limitation, exercise,

Tom Sawyer, the general secretary of the party announced the holding of an internal inquiry into the incident but there are no plans to publish the

"While it wasn't an easy decision to make," said Liam, 6ft lin and almost 14 stone. "I've discussed the position, not only with my father, who has never pushed me to follow either route, but also with professional advisers. Ive always had a slight preference for rugby."

Hartlepool.

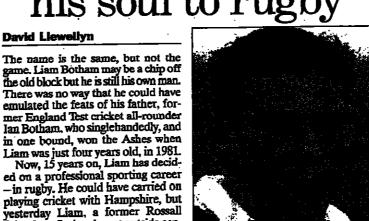
School pupil who plays at outside cen-

tre, signed a three-year contract with

Courage First Division club West

Mark Ring, West's director of rugby and a former Wales international, said: "It is virtually impossible to combine summer and winter sports at a professional level these days. Liam has had a taste of cricket at a professional level and now has the challenge ahead of professional rugby at a national level. think he has a great future."

Liam appears to be blessed with the same team of script writers as his father. On his debut for Hampshire against Middlesex last season, Botham Junior claimed five wickets for 67 nms, in-Leading article, page 15 | chading the scalp of former England cap-



tain Mike Gatting. It does not stop there. Last October, when he made his senior

Rugby certainly looks a likelier bet for the Legend's son. There is a hard core of realism running through the youngster. He confided recently: "I can never win at cricket having this name. If I do well people will say I should do. If I do badly they would say I was only in the side because of whose son I am. But there was a wistfulness when he told the interviewer: "... I wish I could be called plain Liam Bloggs.

Somehow it seems improbable that a Botham could be plain anything. Quite rightly he is being pragmatic and playing to his strengths. And Bloggs or Botham, Liam could well make his name in rugby.





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Major tells MPs: obey and survive

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

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John Major will be able to soldier on until an election date of his own choosing, he said yes-terday – providing his warring backbenchers "behave".

"I bave no doubt, providing people behave themselves, we can get through to our preferred date," he said in Dublin. "I am not going to indicate any par-ticular dates. Certainly, I think we will be able to hang on to our preferred date."

But Tony Blair, Labour leader, also in Dublin, declared: "The Government majority has gone and we will continue to pile on the pressure until the Government has gone too. This is a government that has ceased to have any real purpose but its own survival, and the country needs and deserves better."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday was forced to re-arrange an historic visit to Cyprus after the Government lost its Commons majority in the Barnsley East by-election.

The first bilateral visit by a British foreign secretary to the divided Mediterranean island in 30 years was brought forward so that he could return for Monday's crucial vote on European fishing policy.

The Government faces defeat in the vote without the support of the Ulster Unionists, 12 months after the Government was defeated on the same issue.

Tory MPs have been given a of Barry Porter. three-line whip to make sure they are in Westminster for

the vote. Mr Rifkind's hastily rearranged plans showed the difficulty facing ministers in the

run-up to the general election. The Prime Minister now effectively has to run a minority government after the rejection John Gorst, in protest at calls at "TCM), Anghort

a hospital in his constituency. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, said he had "bent over backwards" to answer Sir John's demands and was not planning further concessions. Mr Dorrell also appealed to Euro-sceptic Tory

MPs to back the Government. Some ministers believe the infighting over Europe is now terminal for the Tory party. "There is no sign of us pulling out of this before the election. I am just waiting to have a go at them when we lose," one pro-Euro-pean minister said.

The Euro-sceptics remain convinced they can harden policy to rule out entry into a single currency early in the early spring. "Ken Clarke will be forced to go along with it," one leading backbench Euro-scep-

More than 100 Tory MPs are preparing to put a commitment in their election addresses saying they would not vote for a single currency in the next Parliament, flouting current government policy to keep the option open.

Labour pledged to harry the Government out of office at the earliest opportunity after it comfortably held Barnsley East with a majority of 12,181 in spite of a low turn out. John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, chal-lenged Mr Major to call the byelection in the Tory seat of Wirral South, where an election

Barusky East result: Jeff Ennis (Lab) 13,683 (76.4%), David Willis (LD) 1,502 (8.4%), Miss Jane Ellison (C) 1,299 (7.2%), Ken Capstick (Socialist Labour Party) 949 (5.3%), Count Nikolai Toistoy (UK Independence Party) 378 (2.1%), Ms Party | Sep (2009), Sept. | Party | 378 (2.1%), Ms Julie Byland (Socialist Equality Party) 89 (0.5%); Lab maj 12.181 (68.9%), 0.2% swing Lab to 1.D. Electorate 53.129; turnout 17,900 (33.7%), 1992; Lab maj 24,777 (63.0%); rurnout 39,314 (72.7%). Patchett



The toast is Labour: Jeff Ennis, by-election victor, breakfasting with his wife Margaret and their children yesterday morning

Echoes of 1979 as Ulster holds key to power

Colin Brown

Ulster MPs could again bring down the Government, ending 18 years of Tory rule as they began, with a vote of no confidence in the Commons.

On the night that James Callaghan's Labour government fell, the confidence vote turned on one man: Frank Maguire, an independent republican from Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

All day speculation had raged about whether Mr Maguire, a cheerful landlord in the border "bandit" country, would turn up to rescue the Prime Minister. When he arrived at the

Commons, there were sighs of relief that he would save Labour from defeat. But as 10pm approached and MPs crowded in for the vote; it

abstain in person". Dennis Skinner, the left-wing Labour MP for Bolsover, remonstrated with Mr Maguire behind the Speaker's chair as the voting took place, tugging him to go into the

Jim Callaghan: History of his

overthrow may be repeated

division lobby with Labour. became clear he had no such in-But Mr Maguire, a big man, MPs that he had somed up to -when it was read out, produced

cheers on both sides. By then, ernment relentlessly through the the Labour government was exhausted. It had suffered more than 30 defeats in its attempts to soldier on after the Lib-Lab pact had broken down.

The Prime Minister's parliamentary aide, Roger Stott, now a backbench Labour MP, said: "It is draining and sapping when you have no majority. You have to make sure everybody is available for the vote; the sick are brought in.

"It was a dreadful situation and it was, predictable that on one night, all the forces would combine to bring us down. We won on the big things, but they

just kept chipping away."
Margaret Thatcher's opposition pursued the Labour gov-

Winter of Discontent after the Prime Minister had failed to go for the autumn 1978 election everyone expected.

Two of her biggest troublemakers were backbenchers, Norman Tebbit and the late Nicholas Ridley.

The Labour government fended off defeat by trying to reach alliances with the minor parties. The three Welsh Nationalist MPs were promised a Bill to help miners who had pneumoconiosis. The Ulster Unionists were promised extra seats in Westminster and a gas link to the mainland.

One minister vesterday recalled being told during a debate to offer them an electricity

link to the mainland to avoid a defeat. The electricity interconnec-

tor has yet to be built. It is being delayed by a decision by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to refer part of the route to an inquiry after criticism of unsightly pylons being

strung across part of Scotland. The coup de grâce was delivered on night of high drama. As a symbol of Labour's industrial troubles, the staff at the Commons were on strike, and no hot food or drink was available in the Palace.

The shadow of Ireland again fell over Westminster after Labour's defeat when, in the brief lull before the election campaign, Mrs Thatcher's chief

strategist and Northern Ireland spokesman, Airey Neave, was assassinated by a car bomb at the Commons by the INLA. a break-away terror group from

the IRA. John Major is expected to commit the Government on Monday to implementing a se-lective cull of beef herds, beginning in Northern Ireland. which may buy more time from the Ulster Unionists.

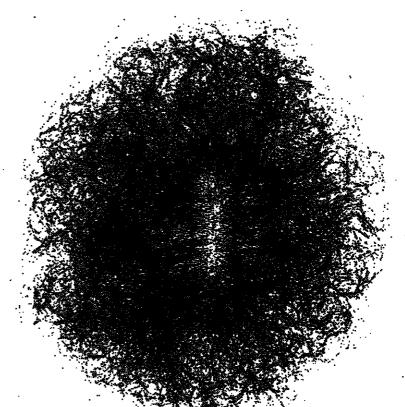
Ministers expect David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to try to bring down the Gov-ernment in March.

Mr Major may therefore try to beat the Ulstermen to the punch, and go to the country on a date of his own choosing at the



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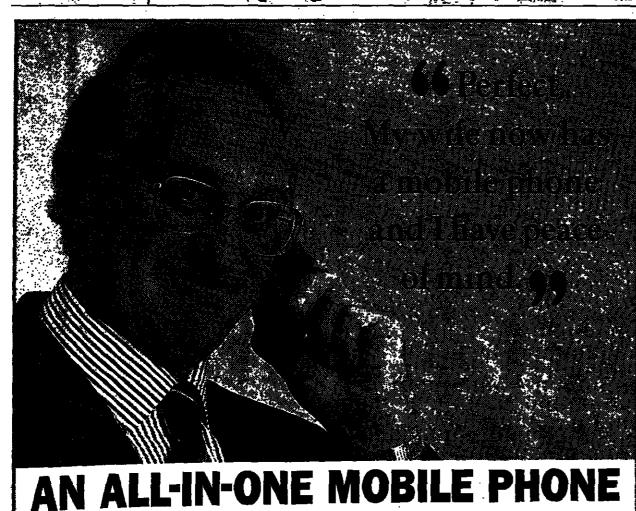


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Rabbits on the roof in Britain's greenest house

A house so green that rabbits will live off its turf roof has been given the go-ahead for Kentish Town, north London, despite the opposition of the local planning authority.

Peter Cuming can now start work on a £250,000 housing development that will feed power from solar panels into the national grid and recycle water from baths and washing machines. Two sections of roof will be insulated with soil a metre deep growing meadow grasses

and herbs. A tree is also likely. Rabbits came into the scheme when council officials suggested to Mr Cuming that neighbours might be disturbed by roof-top mowing. "I said 'Well, maybe I should have some rabbits' and since then I have been rather hoist by my own petard," Mr Cuming, an urban planner, said.

Permission for the house and three flats was secured when John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, rejected Camden council's objection. It was not averse to the solar panels or even the rabbits "What we are attempting to

Stephen **Goodwin** on the new home that even recycles its

but objected to the size of the development in a compact area and the loss of daylight for neighbouring properties.

own water

But Mr Gummer and Mr Cuming, a former building and planning inspector, said homes in a nearby council development were closer together. They have gone for medieval spacing; neighbours can shake hands from their windows."

He calculates that the panels will produce the equivalent of about half the electricity used by the four homes. It will not be used directly but sold to the national grid. Solar water-heating will further reduce energy demand and in the basement there will be a communal recy-

show is that even in really urban areas you can do the same sort of thing that up to now has only been done in places like the Welsh hills," Mr Cuming said.

He had expected more co-operation from the council, which has publicly advocated use of solar power and turf roofs. The site, in Talacre Road, is a derelict air-raid shelter and former lift factory. Construction is to begin in the New Year and be completed by March 1998.

Mr Cuming is already being showered with advice about the rabbits, including a warning about them being plucked by kestrels marauding from Hampstead Heath. The grass area will be fenced like any other roof garden and the rabbits will be able to burrow beneath the turf. "I will be living in one of the homes and looking after them," the developer said.

As for numbers and the rabbit's renowned reproductive for just two of the creatures. "And they will probably be both male - a couple of limp-wristed rabbits might be best."



Hop to it: Peter Cuming with one of this rooftop croppers, supplied to him by Animal Crackers, of Hampstead



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Solar power gets a plug in 100 schools Schools will be turned into amount of energy generated miniature power stations under and possibly adjusting controls

an experimental scheme to in- for maximum efficiency. stall solar panels in their playgrounds, writes Lucy Ward.

One hundred schools taking part in the government-backed project will be able to generate free electricity in return for a one third contribution to the start-up costs. They hope to produce enough power from the panels,

mounted in "fun" shapes on bicycle sheds or purpose-built structures, to run computer suites, with any extra being sold to the National Grid.

Schools and further education colleges are being invited to take part in the scheme by a consortium aiming to promote the use of solar power in the UK. The partners in the Scolar Programme, which include universities, electricity companies and green energy research groups, hope the experiments will demonstrate the efficiency

of solar energy. Schools are likely to have to contribute around £3,500 to join. The remaining costs will be Pupils will also be able to use met by £1m government cash computers to analyse data from and £2.5m from the Scolar conthe panels, calculating the sortium.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 13 DECEMBER 1996

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news

Man jailed for war on women

four-year "war on women" was jailed for life at the Old Bailey

in London vesterday. James Oliver, 25, had ruined the lives of his victims - all professional women - by subjecting them to nightmarish ordeals, the court was told. Some woke in the early hours to find Oliver, high on crack cocaine, in their beds, threatening to kill them unless they met his sexual demands.

"Although these terrible

amount to a war on women, Judge Gerald Gordon told Oliver. "You subjected them to what can only be described as torture to satisfy your drug-induced lust."

Unemployed Oliver, from Hornsey, north-east London, admitted one charge of rape and four of indecent assault involving women living mainly in the Islington/Camden area of north London between 1991 and

their lives have been changed forever and probably ruined by your behaviour," the judge said.

Adding that he had a duty to protect women, he jailed Oliver for life for the rape and for seven years for the assaults. He ordered that the sentences should run concurrently.

Oliver's last victim was a 36year-old American lawyer who was attacked while staying with a friend.

The woman described in a fax crimes were committed over a "Inevitably your conduct to to the court the effect the assent in his hand. After the assent the considerable period, with your victims has had the pro-

and secure but that now she was afraid to be alone, frequently anxious and feared that she

"The shock and rage I felt wondering whether this random attack might take my life are beyond description," she stated.

Oliver had woken her during the night, hinging at her before laying on top of her. He threatened to kill her and was holding a long metal instrument Oliver attacked his first

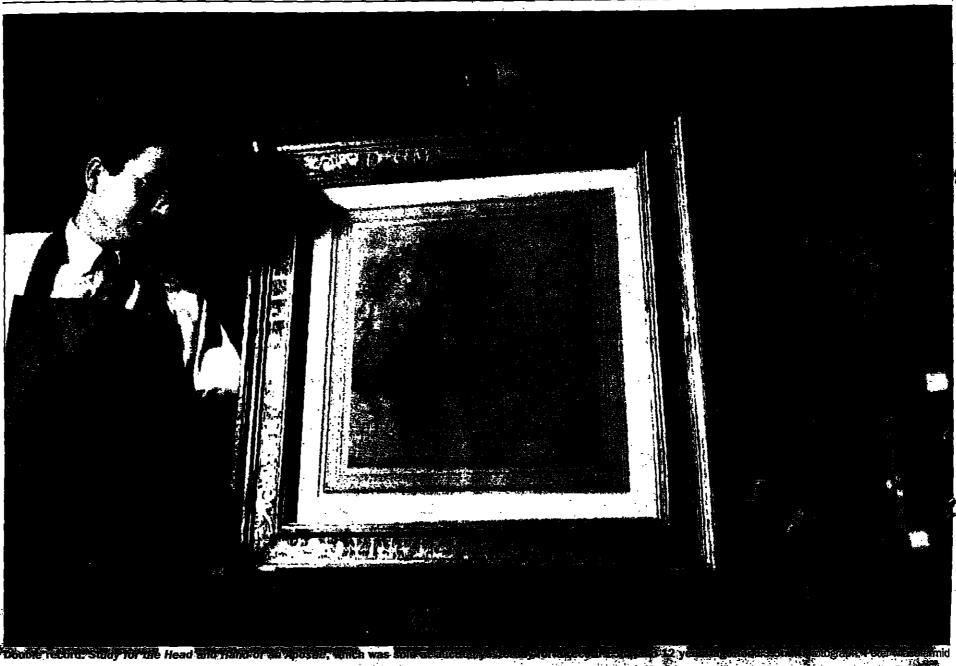
victim - a journalist in her 50s when she was in her bed while her husband and daughter were away and her son was asleep in another room. Wearing a stocking mask, he got in through an open window on a balcony crouched over her, was polite and promised not to hurt her, then said he had a friend with him who was holding a gun to someone's head in the next

room. He then raped her. Oliver also took property

from his victims. He admitted burglary and was jailed for five years - again to run concur-

rently with the other sentences. David Christie, for the defence, said Oliver was a different man when not on drugs and could not now recollect carry-

ing out the attacks.
"He feels real remorse for the offences and disbelieves he could do such terrible things. He presents as a very mild mannered young man. He would like to say to all his victims he has most extreme remorse for the stress he has caused them."



BRANCH INVESTMENT **ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES**

EFFECTIVE FROM 13 DECEMBER 1996

THESE ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

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NORTHERN ROCK

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Head and hand set world record

An Old Master drawing by the world record for an Old Mas refused to make public their esterday, fetching more than 15m years ago, when it was sold by at auction, writes Marianne, the Diske of Devoushire for Macdonald.

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Renaissance genius Raphael ter drawing timate of the likely safe price, sold for a world record price for titlad also set a world record and they continued to refuse to

The study is an auxiliary car-

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Dealers in combat knives face jail

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A Government-backed Private Members' Bill to jail dealers in combat knives won all-party approval yesterday as it re-ceived an unopposed Com-mons Second Reading. Jimmy Wray, the Bill's spon-

sor, secured the backing of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for the measure, despite initial Government resistance on the ground that "combat" weapons could not be distinguished from household knives.

Under the Bill, it would be an offence, punishable by up to two years in jail, to market a knife in a way which "indicates or suggests that it is suitable for com-bat" or will "stimulate or encourage violent behaviour". It will also be an offence to sell, hire or offer for sale a knife suitable for combat. Whether a particular knife is "suitable for combat" will be for the courts.

Mr Wray, who came top of the private members' ballot, criticised the Government's failure to come up with a workable definition of a combat knife sooner. "It is not beyond the wit of reasonable people to tell the difference between a knife designed to cut through bread and one designed to cut through

. If someone could show a lawful purpose for a knife it should not be an offence, he said, "I believe we can get the balance right."

Mr Wray, MP for Glasgow Govan, conceded that the carrying of an offence weapon in a public place was already an of-

drea

We must also tackle supply by banning the sale of weapons that have only the purpose of wounding and killing. The tide of public opinion has turned against these weapons being available."

The MP said the names of some knives - including an "SAS shoulder-holster knife and a Rambo short sword" alone betrayed their purpose. The Bill, a response to the appeal by Frances Lawrence after the stabbing of her late husband, Philip, would also extend police powers to allow an officer of superintendent rank or above to order the stopping and searching of people or vehicles with-in a specified area for 24 hours, renewable for 24 hours.

David Maclean, the Home Office minister, pledged the Government's support, saying: "I believe the proposals in this Bill will make a significant contribution in stamping out the un-pleasant and unacceptable ways combat knives are marketed."

Alun Michael, his Labour shadow, said: "We are pleased that the Government has finally acted to curb the menace of combat knives."

The Bill has been welcomed as a step towards changing the culture of violence by the Police Superintendents' Association, although it had lobbied the Home Office for an all-out ban. But the Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said yesterday that the measure did not go far enough. "The Bill as drafted will not

in our view result in a legal ban on the sale of such knives," a spokesman said. "We fear they will simply be sold as 'sporting'



Beauty and the beasts: Actors James Horne, standing, and Andrew Ryan, who play ugly sisters Sharon and Tracey, preparing for a rehearsal of the pantomime Cinderella before their season opens at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on 19 December

Gore back in vogue for anti-fur campaign

Michael Streeter

After the models, the nudity and the glamour, comes the harsh reality.

A graphic anti-fur campaign was launched yesterday which focuses on the reality of the dead animals which are used for fur coats rather than the celebrities who oppose them.

The campaign by Respect for Animals employs posters de-picting the skinned head of a fox emerging, teeth-bared, from a fur coat, together with the caption: "Do you have the face to wear fur?"

Its style is in grim contrast with another poster unveiled six your back on fur."



Skin deep: The poster designed 'to make fur-wearers think'

weeks ago by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) on which models posed naked under the caption: "Tim

Both are a response to a growing perception that after years of social rejection, fur is fashionable once more. Fashion designers Karl Lagerfield, Guc- where they come from. That's

ci, Prada and Amanda Wakeley have been flouting it on the cat-walk and French Elle magazine recently declared: "It's okay to wear fur again."

Yesterday's campaign was launched by the singer Cathy Dennis, fashion designer David Fielden and the Labour MP Ken Livingstone.

Its spokesman, Mark Glover, said the poster had been cleared by the Advertising Standards
Authority, and justified its
graphic nature. "We think it ments with fur-trim collars. goes far enough but not too far. Obviously it's designed to make fur-wearers think about the garments they're wearing and

our object and we feel this is the best way of achieving this."

Mr Glover added that 95 per Fur Trade Association reported imports of fur into Britain of £22m in 1994, up from £18m the

cent of people in Britain were against wearing fur, but he warned that the current fashion for fake fur meant a growing acceptance of the real thing.

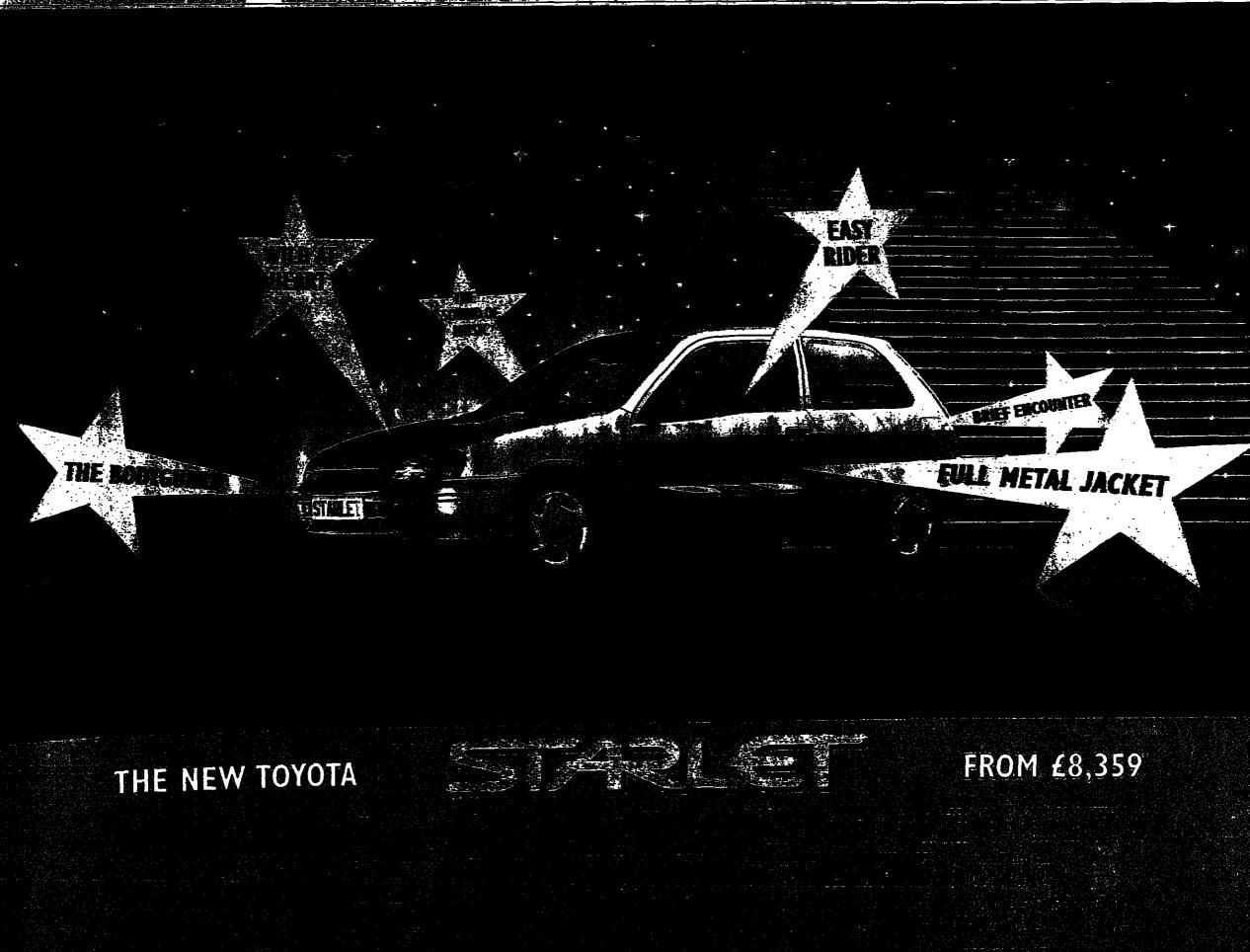
Many large department stores, including Selfridges, now have a no-fur policy, refusing to stock garments featuring

Twelve years ago, fur sales in Britain totalled £80m and by 1989 had dropped to £11m. But recently sales have started to creep up again and the British coat," he said.

ed imports of fur into Britain of £22m in 1994, up from £18m the previous year. The Fur Education Council claimed sales were up 30 per cent last year.

The poster was received badly by the fur-selling trade. At outfitters Swaine Adeney Brigg and Herbert Johnson, in central London, retail manager Richard Jaggs-Fowler described the poster as "horrendous" but said it would not prevent him ordering more than 100 mink, sable and fox-fur hats a year.

"Wearing fur is more natural than bringing oil out of the ground to make a man-made



significant shorts

right chance for pardons

President Nelson Mandela vesterday extended the scope of South Africa's postapartheid "truth commission" to include a white rightist attempt to derail democracy and gave offenders five months longer to seek a pardon. Those guilty of human rights abuses in the fight over apartheid would have until May to apply for amnesty. Mr Mundela set 10 May 1994, the day of his inauguration as the country's first democratically elected president, as the cut-off date for crimes that could qualify for a pardon. Reuters -

France faces justice reforms

The French justice minister. Jacques Toubon, promised to set up a commission to consider reform of the court system, following remarks by President Jacques Chirac on the independence of the judiciary. But he declined to endorse Mr Chirac's suggestion that the appointment of law officers could cease to be in the gift of the government. Mr Chirac is the first president to broach the possibility of severing the link between certain groups of law officers and the justice ministry. Paris – Mary Dejevsky

Cherlow Vega

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Mandela gives Milosevic offers to let observers check elections

President Slobodan Milosevic offered to lct international observers check the fairness of local elections which the opposition say were rigged. Mr Milosevic. under pressure from the US. protested in a letter to Varren Christopher, Secretary of State, that Serbia had a healthy democracy and accused the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition of "political terrorism". Reuters — Belgrade

Saudis behead male 'witch'

Saudi Arabia beheaded a Syrian man by the sword for practising witchcraft, the state-run Saudi television reported. An interior ministry statement said a court had decided on the maximum penalty because of what it considered the dangerous effect witchcraft could have on individuals and society. Reuters - Dubai

Nazi gold profit The Swiss National Bank acknowledged that it had profited from business with gold plundered by Nazi Germany but said it had not dealt with any gold from

concentration camp victims

AP – Zurich

Dublin summit: Germans bow to French demands on 'stability pact' to police single currency The euro: your flexible friend.

A hard-fought deal on how to police the future single currency was finally achieved at the European summit in Dublin yesterday, giving important new

Germany, which has been insisting on the strictest rules for a future "stability pact," had to bow to French demands for a more flexible system. The sta-bility pact will be the rulebook for countries inside the eurozone, setting out a system of fines and penalties to be levied against countries which lettheir economies slip out of line.
Theo Waigel, the German fi-

nance minister, yesterday declared that the rules would mean that the euro would be "a strong currency." Germany won agreement that countries could he excused fines for exceeding budget deficit rules only in the case of very deep recession, exceeding 2 per cent negative growth. Mr Waigel rejected suggestions that German's hard line was an attempt to dominate decision-making, saying that it was not some "Teutonic stabilitv craze.'

However, a last minute compromise formula allowed France to claim that it had won some concessions from Bonn. France and other member states have demanded less severe penalty rules, arguing that a degree of political control and flexibility should be introduced. France is concerned that the sin-gle currency will be controlled bankers inside the future European Central Bank.

However, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was determined to maintain a tough negotiating stance in order to shore up confidence among the German public that the euro will be as strong as the mark. Latest opinion polls show as few as 16 per cent of Germans sup-

port the coming of the euro. There were already signs yes-terday that leaders were moving on to discuss the next itentious issue: who should

Europe's leaders are determined to win over a sceptical public

enforce the fines. Under the Maastricht Treaty it is envisaged that finance ministers will act as judges, ruling against recalcitrant member states. But proposals for a wider form of informal economic government to run the Euro zone - termed a "stability council" - are gathering pace.

Negotiations on the final stability pact deal, which were carried out by EU finance ministers, were long and tense. All member states agreed that countries which allow their public deficits to exceed three per cent of gross domestic product

cedures. Under these procedures each member state would have to submit its budget proposals to the European Comussion and the European finance ministers would hear Commission recommendations on which countries are running out of line.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-cellor, hashad to fend off accusations that Britain might be subject to the rules even if it remains outside the single cur-rency. Mr Clarke has won assurances that the rules and fines would not affect Britain if t does not join the euro.

The dispute which climaxed in Dublin arose over when exceptions could be made, allowing countries to escape fines, because of exceptional circum-stances, such as recession or nat-

In the final deal, Germany achieved its desired 2 per cent upper limit. However, agreement was reached that countries whose economies hit recession should be allowed to argue an "exceptional circumstances" on a case by case basis. This means that France had its bottom line written into the deal. However, in an addendum, countries did agree that they would endeavour not to argue exceptional circumstances in cases of negative growth of up to 0.75 per cent. The decision on whether to let individual countries off the fines procedures would be decided by a qualified majority vote amongst European Union



Grin and bear it: Kenneth Clarke and John Major arrive in Dublin yesterday Photograph: PA

Collins's way with words miffs Mafia stronghold

Andrew Gumbel

The citizens of Reggio Calabria are furious, and all be-cause of the Collins English Dictionary. Anyone thinking of visiting the city, on the tip of the Italian boot, would do well to keep any copies of the of-fending publication out of sight for fear of a lynching. Mism-forment, malicious ulentiy racist - such are some of the milder words being used

about HarperCollins these days. The reason? Collins put out press release listing a few of the new words and phrases they have come across in recent research and will now consider for inclusion in the next edition. One phrase was "Reggio Calabria Syndrome", to define the gangsters and others living in Mafia-controlled areas.

Channel 4's Europe Express and referred to research by Francesco Aragona, a professor at the University of Messina who has examined the corpses of mafia victims in the Reggio area and discovered their organs show the sort of stress levels more commonly associated with 70-year-old stroke or heart-at-

Sticking the label Reggio Calabria Syndrome" on to this phenomenon might seem harmless enough but does not take into account the touchiness of Italians when it comes to the judgement, or perceived judgement, of foreigners. "This is a piece of pseudo-culture that ... presumes to make judgements that have no relationship to reality," said the city's deputy

Never mind that Reggio is life-threatening case of Aggraregularly cited as the murder vated Collins Syndrome.

The term was picked up from capital of Italy, or that this hannel 4's Europe Express and week its most prominent anti-Mafia magistrate said his efforts to fight organised crime were on the brink of collapse. Much of the indignation has

centred on the notion that

Collins would put such a phrase in their dictionary on the basis of a mere television programme. Some of the critics might be surprised to know that Collins feels the same way. "With only citation, we wouldn't dream of putting it in," said the dictionary's managing edi-

tor, Diana Treffry.
Which rather takes the veaom out of the affair, though you would not know it from the Italian reaction. Someone had better pass the message on quickly, before the high stress levels down south mutate from Reg-

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	% Comp	* No.		% Gross	% No.
POSTAL 120 (Amual)			POSTAL 7! (Annual)		
£25,000 or more	5.75	4.60	£100,000 or more	2.05	
£10,000 - £24,999	5.30	4.24		3.95	3.16
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£50 - £2,499	0.30	0.40	£10,000 - £24,999	2.65	2.12
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£25,000 or more	5.60	4.48	£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.40
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£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.40	£100,000 or more	3.83	3.10
	華	Œ 15	£50,000 - £99,999	3.83	3.06
POSTAL 90 (Annual)			£25,000 - £49,999	3.40	2.72
£50,000 or more	4.60	3.68	£10,000 - £24,999	_	
£25,000 - £49,999	4.58	3.60		1.62	2.10
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Sheep's blood on streets of Baghdad as Saddam's son survives shooting

sonal or political, it's a warning

sponsibility for the attack.

Diplomats said the shooting

may have been a personal attack

on the President's high-profile

son, who runs his own newspa-

Leon Barkho Reuter

Baghdad - The street where gunmen tried to kill President Saddam Hussein's eldest son was splattered with sheep's blood yesterday, and thronged with Iraqis celebrating that Uday survived the attempt on

The spraying of blood from scores of slaughtered sheep symbolised that a bad omen had been dispelled. Thousands of people gathered at the site in Baghdad's smart district of al-Mansour, where Uday's car was attacked by gunmen as he drove through, unguarded, on Thursday evening. A brass band played the

national anthem, women swayed to the tune and several people showered the crowd with chocolates and other sweets. "The evil intentions of killing the symbol of Iraq's youth have failed." said one man. "When conspiracies fail, it is an occasion to celebrate."

Eyewitnesses said at least two gunmen attacked Uday's car, injuring the 32-year-old



Devoted: Iraqi women, carrying a picture of the President, pray for Uday's swift recovery

along with several bystanders. Uday was later reported to be in satisfactory condition in Baghdad's Ibn Sina hospital.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper, al-Thawra, published a presidential statement issued hours after the attack. No details were given of the identity of the attackers, or whether there were other casualties. In-

vestigations were under way, the "Whatever the motives, perpaper said. to the regime," one Iraqi op-position figure in Jordan said. None of the Iraqi opposition groups in exile has claimed re-

Whoever shot Uday could have been one of his many enemies - both within Iraq's inner-circle of power and in the exiled opposition. The shooting exposed a hole in Baghdad's usually watertight security and highlighted the threats that exist to President Saddam's rule.

Uday's influence goes far beyond his modest official title chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee. Although his younger brother, Qusay, heads Iraq's special security forces, Uday has also muscled his way into power, upsetting people within and outside the ruling cir-

Opposition groups say Uday has now emerged as the informal crown prince of Iraq, though diplomats in Baghdad say Saddam used the turmoil around him to reassert his own absolute authority. A wave of arrests in Baghdad over the summer led to reports of a coup attempt, but there are few signs that Saddam's 25-year grip on power has waned.

Uday, a loose cannon in Saddam's inner clique of close relatives, was briefly out of favour after he beat to death one of his father's favourite servants in November 1988. He later married the teenage daughter of Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, another of Saddam's half-brothers, only to reject her and send



Photographs: AFP

Settler growth 'death to peace'

Word

Palestinian leaders and opposition Israelis last night predicted a new explosion of violence after Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government restored social and economic incentives for Jews to settle the West Bank that were abolished four years ago by the late Labour prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

sion, taken yesterday in response to Wednesday's Palestinian killing of a mother and son from the Beit El settlement, as a death blow to the ailing peace process. Hamas, which rocked Israel with a series of suicide bombings early this year, is already threatening to resume its attacks.

Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian administration, denounced the Israeli decision as an aggressive act. "It's taking us back to the days of confrontation, to the days before the peace process," she told *The Independent*. "It's a very dangerous decision. It not only violates the integrity of the peace process, it removes any

Ephraim Sneh, a candidate to

succeed Shimon Peres as Labour Party leader, criticised the settlement initiative as "a prescription for new outbursts of violence and the collapse of the interim arrangement with the Palestinians". Mr Sneh, a former military governor of the West Bank, accused Mr Netanyahu of wanting to turn it into another Bosnia

Galia Golan, a spokeswoman for the Peace Now movement, They condemned the deci- argued: "Netanyahu intends to expand settlements. That means expropriating Arab land; that means more building that means creating incentives for people to go and live there. Each one of these steps makes it more difficult for Arafat to negotiate."

The decision did not specify how many additional homes ministers would sanction. But the intention was clearly to consol idate and expand the Jewish presence in the beartland of the West Bank. It offers tax breaks to settlers and commits the govemment to invest more in social services in the settlements. It provides state loans of 60,000 shekels (£12,000) to homebuyers there, with 50 per cent of that amount turning into a grant if they stay put. And it dangles incentives before firms to establish factories.

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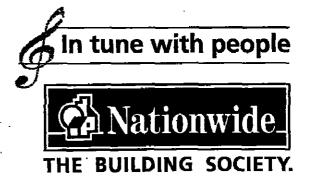
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High drama as UN picks kindly Kofi

David Usborne

Amid high drama in New York, Kofi Annan, the kindly but disciplined 58 year-old from Ghana, was abruptly anomated as the next Secretary-General of the Unit-ed Nations after France yesterday informed colleagues in the Security Council that it would withdraw its veto against him.

The council was expected to complete an official vote selecting Mr Annan later yesterday, he will therefore replace Boutros Boutros-Ghali when his five-year term expires at the end of the month. The choice of Mr Annan will almost certainly be rubber-stamped and therefore made official by the UN's General Assembly on

Monday or Tuesday.

Mr Annan, who has been in charge of UN peace-keeping since 1993, quickly emerged as the strong front-runner in a string of informal straw-poll votes held by the Security Council every day since Tuesday. France, however, had been threatening to scupper his chances. On Thursday, the vote count in the council was 14 in favour of Mr Annan and only one against, with France as the lone stand-out.

The French manoeuvring stemmed from its support for a second term for Mr Boutros-Ghali and its anger at the United States for determinedly standing in the Egyptian's way. In November, the US ve-toed a formal attempt to reappoint Mr Bouros-Ghali. The French stance against Mr Annan, though shortlived, was in the spirit of a crude tit-for-tat against the US.

Many diplomats had expected France to maintain its position at least into next week to ensure maximum discomfort for the US and also for Britain, which has also been a strong backer of Mr Annan. First whispers of a French change of mind be-gan filtering to New York early yesterday morning, they were sourced to the Eu-ropean Summit in Dublin.

In recent days, Britain has played a pivotal role in helping support to coalesce around Mr Annan. Sir John Weston, Britain's ambassador to the UN, had repeatedly warned that without agreement on Mr Annan, the chance offered to Africa to have one of their own in the post for

another five years would be lost.
Yesterday's change of tack is potentially
embarrassing for France. It was not clear
whether Paris had levered some consolation prize from its allies for acquiescing to Mr Annan's appointment, such as the promise of senior UN positions for

Currently Under Secretary General for Peace-keeping, Mr Annan commands fierce loyalty among UN officials and is widely liked and respected. This in spite of the fact that under his leadership, the UN's peace-keeping division has suffered

some humiliating setbacks.
France's formal objection to Mr Annan is that as a 30-year UN civil servant he is not the best figure to bring fresh energy to the UN. His obscurity beyond the UN also means that he does not instantly have the international stature to be able easily to converse with heads of government.

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Family matters: Ghinva Bhutto, leader of a faction of the Paidstan People's Party, waves to supporters in Lahore. She is considering standing against her sister-in-law Benazir, the deposed prime minister, in February elections

Photograph: Mohsin Raza/Reuters

Reno stays in

Clinton team

the job currently held by the at the Justice Department, just combative and forthright as Whitewater and other in-

Like Ms Albright, however, he seems assured of speedy confir-

mation by the Senate - as does

Mr Daley, a centrist who played a key role in building the bipar-tisan coalition on Capito! Hill to vote through the Natta trade

In other moves, Mr Clinton is retaining the services of the efficient Robert Rubin as Trea-

sury Secretary, and was expect-

ed to name his aide, Gene

Sperling, as head of the National Economic Council, the body coordinating economic policy. If

those appointments were plain

sailing, however, the re-ap-

pointment of Ms Reno was not.

at least a vocal array of her crit-

ics within the White House -

vestigations involving the President and the First Lady were

moving into a decisive phase.

Undoubtedly Mr Clinton - or

agreement in 1993.

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

President Bill Clinton has tak-

en more steps towards com-pleting his second term Cabinet by choosing New Mexico Con-gressman Bill Richardson as

Washington's new United Na-tions Ambassador, the Demo-cratic troubleshooter William

Daley as Commerce Secretary,

and by keeping on the contro-yersial lanet Reno as Attorney General Proposition of the appointments the most

striking is that of Mr Richard-

son, 49, a Hispanic-American

best known as unofficial US en-

yoy to Cuba, North Korea, Bur-

ma and Sudan, where this

month he negotiated the release

of three American hostages

held by guerrillas in the south.

A dogged negotiator, he will

Madeleine Albright, whom Mr

Clinton promoted last week to

Secretary of State.

Chirac's second thoughts on media glasnost

Mary Dejevsky

After President Jacques Chirac's two-hour television grilling on Thursday night, the Elysée could be forgiven for having second thoughts about its elaborate exercise to engage the President in a "real dialogue with the people. For the first time, the high, protective walls guarded by the country's political media establishment were breached, a measure of glasnos came to French political broadcasting - and the result was not to the President's advantage.

In place of the flag, anthem and a respectful, almost rever-ential, tone, Mr Chirac was in-troduced with racy film-clips contrasting his election promises with his performance in office and asked to defend himself. Instead of deferentially open questions of traditional presidential broadcasts, Mr Chirac was asked real questions, the sort the Prench man or woman on the metro" asks. but which political interviewers on French television avoid.

"Why is the country in such a mess?" - Why did you attack technocrats during your presidential campaign, but now sur-round yourself with them?" "What about the political cor-ruption cases, including these of your own Gaullist party?"

When, as with the corruption question, Mr Chirac veered off-in another direction, he was hauled back to address the specific point. The two younger in-terviewers even had the tem-erity to try the odd interruption. To British eyes and cars and

customed to the aggressing questioning of politicians on the Today programme or New night, Mr Chirac had an east ride. No one was trying to cath him out, no one was trying to make him say anything he did not want to say. Even so, the decision to bring to the interviewing table journalists from outside France's closed political media clique was a bold step, en-gineered largely by Mr Chirac's daughter; Claude! She master-minded his appeal to the youth campaign and has since done her utmost to update the way the president is packaged.

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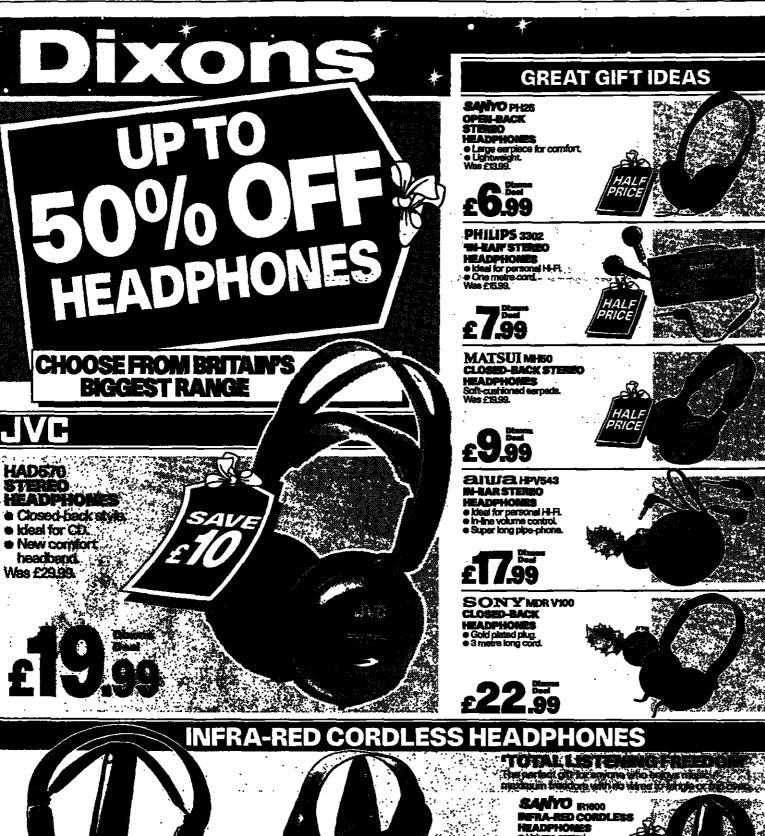
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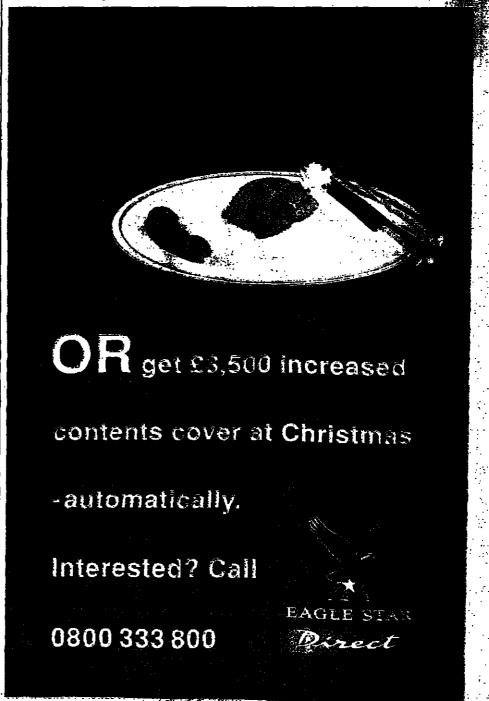
Bringing the presentation up to date, however, means the President, too, has to adapt and the evidence is that there would have liked to jettison Ms is still some way to go. As some Reno. To do so, however, would have invited criticism that he critics of Mr Chirac's performance said yesterday, it was as tator of his own government, as though he had nothing to do. with decisions taken and could, applaud or deplore the gov ernment's performance at w



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Nato's megadeath gets a slimmer look

Christopher Bellamy examines how the alliance is adapting to new realities of the post-Cold War era

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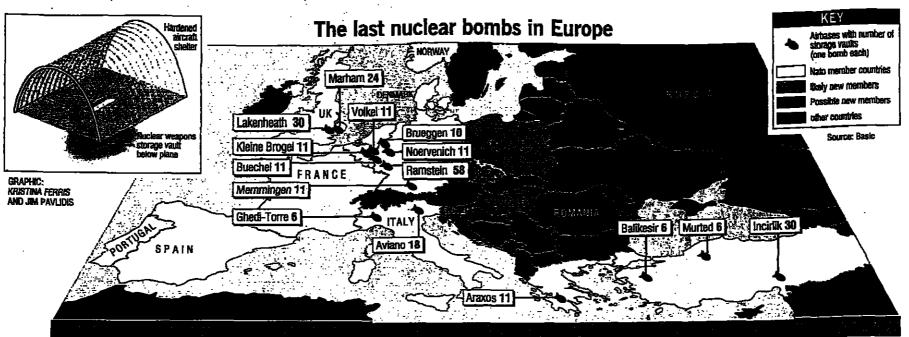
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As Nato pledged not to move nuclear weapons on to the territory of new alliance members in East Europe, the US has been withdrawing tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, and The Independent has learnt that only about 200 of its bombs remain as a small "sub-strategic" force. Instead of detailed plans for the

use of these and strategic nuclear weapons in specific scenarios, Nato commanders are now allowed to make plans at short notice based on existing databases about possible targets. Nato countries operating aircraft able to carry nuclear weapons (the US, Britain and France) will in future only be required to maintain one unit trained and ready for huclear attack. The only US tactical nuclear

apons in Europe are the slim B-61 nuclear bombs which are carried on F-111s, F-15 and F-16

Following the abandonment of the nuclear-weapons storage area at Lakenheath, Suffolk, The Independent vaults was discussed in the early to



reported on 28 October that US nuclear weapons had probably all been withdrawn from the UK. But this is now understood to have been premature. Most of the weapons have been withdrawn, but up to 30 may still remain in new weapon-storage vanits situated beneath the hardened shelters where the aircraft which could still carry them are parked.

mid-1980s and work began in 1987 on the vaults, each of which holds one B-61 US or British WE-177 nuclear

Originally Nato planned to build 437 such vaults at 26 sites but with the end of the Cold War the Senior Level Protection Group, known by the acronym, Slowpig, cut the programme to 208.

The vaults mean that it is much

cheaper to store the weapons, as it

is unnecessary to guard a separate site. They also permit the bombs to be loaded into the aircraft in secret, though this might not always be an advantage, as any news that aircraft were being armed might be an

important deterrent in itself. However, Nato was concerned that the "igloos" which were formerly used to store nuclear weapons were located several miles from the aircraft, and therefore required "convoys with large security forces travelling through unrestricted areas. The very presence of the convoys attracts attention and they may be vulnera-

ble to sabotage". The new system consists of vaults in the floor of the arched, hardened aircraft shelters. They are equipped with sensors and television monitors for security, and control consoles to lift the bombs into the aircraft by remote control.

Details of the weapons-storage vaults have been compiled from open sources by the British American Security Information Council -Basic - an independent analysis group. The only US base in Britain with these vaults is RAF Lakenheath, where there are 30. There are also 24 at RAF Marham. The RAF will

1998, and thereafter Britain's "sub-

The vaults are equipped with ... consoles to lift the bombs into aircraft by remote control

ed by Trident missiles with single

Germany still has the largest nuclear-weapons storage capacity-101 vaults. The vaults in Germany, Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands and at the US-operated Aviano base in Italy have all been completed and activity is now concentrated on Nato's southern flank. Coincidentally, this is the area where Nato planners feel that a threat from weapons of mass destruction might arise in future.

Instead of facing an assault from the east towards Western Europe, the sites for the new vaults in Greece and Turkey are closer to countries such as Iraq and Libya, which are seen as potential launch-sites for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The number of vaults planned at Greek and Turkish bases is likely to be smaller than planned in 1987. when 11 were planned at Araxos, in dispose of its last free-fall bombs in Greece and 30 at Incirlik, near Adana, Turkey, and six each at strategic" deterrent will be provid-

Black-out chaos adds to Madrid airport woes

Elizabeth Nash

Attendants were handwriting passengers' check-in details by indiclight this week following a power black-out that paralysed Barajas airport, Madrid, for five hours, prompting the Transport Minister, Rafael Arias Salgado, to condemn Spain's principal airport, one of the busiest in Europe, as "like the

It was the worst of three hlack-outs during a week of Thursday an Iberia plane overmounting chaos that has caused ran the runway and stuck in the spiralling delays in all flights. mud, causing panic when an exit and cancellations in the peak pre-Christmas season. As the weekend approached, the situ-ation worsened. Mr Salgado announced that the nearby military airbase at Torrejon would be commandeered for

The base, destined for Nato use when Spain becomes a full member next year, is expected

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ches of WH Smith, thro

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to start taking the overspill within a fortnight. Passengers will have to check in at Barajas then be bussed along 8km of choked motorway. Torrejon's runway is at right angles to that of Barajas, so flight paths will

Tuesday's black-out was caused by a fire after a workman drove an excavator's drill through a 14,000-volt hightension cable. Back-up generators and other emergency measures failed to operate. On door stuck.

Madrid's only airport is 65 years old, has two congested runways, and work on the third is five years overdue. Regional authorities are slowly waking up to the need for a second airport.

The state airline, Iberia, fiercely opposes a second air-port, insisting a single connecting point is vital for its international network. Anyone who uses Barajas regularly can testify to Iberia's clout. Flights from far cheaper private carri-ers are routinely bumped from

their slots by Iberia.

Mr Arias Salgado blames
the previous government for the chaos, saying the Socialists delayed a report on the environmental consequences of expansion for two years. Josep Borrell, the former Socialist Public Works Minister, criticised Mr Arias Salgado for his "irre-sponsibility and manifest in-ability to confront the problems of air traffic".

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José Donoso

"Without literature, I could not go on living." José Donoso, the great Chilean novelist, best known in the English-speaking world for his nightmarish evocations of gruesome yet appealing human monsters, El osceno pájaro de la noche (The Obscene Bird of Night, 1971). was a writer in a land better known for its poets - Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, both Nobel prizewinners. Yet Donoso's sulphurous prose has strong poetic elements that rary South American author. make his more extreme visions and excoriations of modern civilisation attractive and, for sensitive souls, more bearable.

Donoso was known as the "Fifth Man" in the group of writers forever associated now with the "Latin American Boom" of the Sixties and Seventies - García Marquez, Julio Cortagar, Carlos Fuentes and Vargas Llosa. In 1972, he wrote an essay on the movement, Historia personal del "Boom".

He performed the remarkable balancing trick of remaining on friendly terms with his fellow boomers, of widely differing and often changeable political and literary affiliations, but his favourite among them was always Cortagar, the Argentinian novelist whose fantasv was, like his own, blessed

Serrano, has written the best account of this boom in "magic realism", Los de entonces ("As They Were Then"), in which her husband appears as a dedicated cortazariano. As a human being, Donoso was by far the most attractive and generous of the group, and it was this inborn spirit of generosity, so rare among writers, that contributes to the greatness of his style, and makes of him the greatest contempo-

He was born in Santiago de Chile, in a land which has strong links with Britain and British culture. His family was middle-class, with artistic and literary tastes. His father, whose other passions were horses and cards, loved literature, and introduced him at an early age to Russian and French writers. but also to the English classics. and young José's favourite writer was George Eliot, in particular Middlemarch, one of the wittiest novels in the

English language.
He was educated at an English-orientated institution, the Grange School in Santiago. where he composed his first stories in English. Then he was an unwilling student at the Instituto Pedagógico at the University of Chile, before moving on to more fruitful studies at Prince-

etry. His wife, Maria del Pilar ton, where he took a BA degree the Roman Catholic Church in English Literature.

Donoso's life was one of wanderings. Before going to the university, he had worked as a shepherd in Patagonia. Then he lived for a while in Buenos Aires. He obtained a Doherty Foundation scholarship to attend Princeton, then worked as a teacher and journalist in Chile, and won the Chile-Italia Prize for Journalism for his work on the Revista Eroilla in Santiago in 1960. Meanwhile, he had in 1955 brought out at his own expense a volume of short stories, Veraneo ("Summer Hol-iday"). But, in 1957, his novel Coronación was bought by a publisher and became a great

success, one of the most important of transandean works. which won the Premio Municipal. It was followed by another collection of short stories. El charleston, in 1960. Coronación, which attacked the Chilean ruling classes, was translated into several languages, and was awarded the William Faulkner Foundation Prize in 1962. Faulkner had inevitably become another of his most admired authors, as indeed he had for many modern Latin American writers.

A similar revolutionary attitude towards established authority in the government and

John Duffey

player Tom Gray left the group to form another, the Seldom

Scene. They were joined by

the banjoist Ben Eldridge and

the dobro wizard Mike

Auldridge, both of whom had

New Shades of Grass, and by

the vocalist/guitarist John Star-

ling. Their name derived from

the fact that none made a liv-

ing solely by performing: Duffey repaired musical in-

struments. Gray was a cartog-

rapher with the National

Geographic Society and Starling

had trained as an army surgeon.

By playing only weekly at the

Red Fox pizza parlour, Bethesda, Maryland, they were thus

As they began to record for the DC-based Rebel label, the

Scene played also on the the-

atrical connotation of their

name, entitling their first four

albums Act 1, Act 2, Act 3 and

Act 4. Although their eclectic

approach continued to offend

some bluegrass fans, the Scene's

playing could rarely be faulted

"seldom seen".

performed with Cliff Waldron's ebrated its 20th anniversary

was evident in the 1967 novel Este domingo ("This Sunday"). In the same year, El lugar sin limites ("The Place Without Limits") further intensified his feelings for the horrors of contemporary life, charted with cool, acid precision and a bitter humour, though always made palatable by the extraordinarily beautiful style of poetic magical realism that made grotesque transvestite absurdities believable.

Donoso used to say that his books were not just nightmares, they were his real daily life. The title sends us back to Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faust:

in one self-place; for where we are And where hell is, we must ever

Hell hath no limits nor

This is a theme Donoso was also to find in T.S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party:

Hell is oneself;
Hell is alone, the other figures in it
Merely projections. There is nothing
to escape from
And nothing to escape to. One is
always alone

Thus Donoso shows the popular existentialist view of hell as "other people" as something very superficial and insipid. It was made into a magnificent film by the great Mexican director Arturo Ripstein (1977) which enjoyed international acclaim. Of all Donoso's work, this is my favourite, even greater than his generally accepted greatest masterpiece. The Obscene Bird of Night.
Its portraits of social deca-

dence are conceived in a way that reminds one of Francis Bacon's monstrous canvases of deliquescent corpse-like figures no longer human, and animated only by their distorted clothing or tortured limbs. This astringent vision of our lives has a putrescent glow, and per-forms what is perhaps the most important task of literature - to unsettle and disturb, to shatter complacencies. Casa de campo ("Country House", 1978) is an allegory of the decline and fall of a certain ruling class in Chile, set in the 19th century, a virtuoso distancing from the

and in Starling they had one of

the genre's premier vocalists.

Unusually for a bluegrass band, the Seldom Scene's line-

up has remained relatively

stable, and when the band cel-

with a live set, "Scene 20", for

Sugar Hill in 1992, the eight in-

dividuals who had been or were

members all participated. The

closeness and rapport fostered

by their long association is ev-

on each of their albums, is a

group who clearly and gen-

uinely enjoyed what they were

In 1995 and fronted by

Moondi Klein, they played the

European Bluegrass and Cajun

Festival at Blackburn, a gig

billed as their last. This year

however, saw the release of a

new album, Dream Scene, on

which Duffey and Eldridge are

joined by the ex-Johnson

Mountain Boy Dudley Con-nell the bassist Ronnie Simp-

kins and the dobro player Fred

Travers; one on which spot-on

ident throughout for here, as

With the publication of writings like these, it was a foregone conclusion that José Donoso would one day have to go into "voluntary exile". The other kind, "interior exile" or selfsilencing, was not for him. So he became one of the many fortunate writers invited to teach at the University of Iowa's Creative Writing Workshops in the mid-Sixties, after staying for a while at his friend Carlos Fuentes' house in Mexico, waiting for a visa to enter the United States.

He said he had left Chile for only a few months, but those few months became 18 years of not altogether comfortable expatriate life in Spain, tellingly sketched in El jardin de la lada ("The Next Door Garden") in 1981, which begins with a call from a Spanish friend asking where he and his wife are planning to spend the summer - a question fraught with bitter irony for those who cannot afford to abandon "the hell of Sitges" for cooler climes.

Donoso's return to Chile is described in the same disabused comic tones in La Desesperanzu ("Desperation", 1985) - a re-turn to Chile still under dictatorial rule. There he wrote his last big work, Donde van a morir los elefantes ("Where the Elephants Go to Die") in 1994, a huge novel of 600 pages on which he had worked non-stop for 15 hours a day. He had long known he was mortally ill. and in his typically deadpan comic manner would declare: "I have cast-iron ill-health." His Conjecturas sobre la memoria de mi tribu ("Conjectures about the Memory of my Tribe") was published in Spain in October. José Donoso worked to the

very last. He had completed a new novel, El Mocho, and had ican soap opera for television which entertained him in his last days. We might now almost reverse his own saying, and with his death declare: "Literature can not go on living without

José Donoso, writer: born Santiago de Chile 5 October 1924; married Maria del Pilar Serrano (one daughter); died Santiago 7



barmonies and tasteful picking are, as ever, to the fore. Nineteen ninety-six marks the Seldom Scene's 25th anniversary and John Duffey has been a constant presence throughout. Whether it can survive without him remains to be seen.

Paul Wader

John Duffey, bluegrass singer and mandolin player: born Wash-ington DC 4 March 1934; died Arlington, Virginia 10 December



Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier

Like many of the Communist personalities who joined the Party before the Second World War, Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier came from a wellestablished bourgeois family, her father Lucien Vogel being the owner of a weekly magazine and a well-known editor and journalist. She herself worked as a journalist and a photographer, joining the party through her membership of the

Communist youth movement:
From 1934, she was one of the founders and leaders of L'Union des Jeunes Filles de France, an organisation devoted to young women. The Popourably on some of the women's claims, appointing women to junior posts in the government, although it was very far from filling all the aspirations of Marie-Claude Vogel, who by 1937 had married Paul Vaillant-Couturier (just two weeks before his death).

In the spring of 1939 she was forced to go underground when the government made the Communist Party illegal because it was not supporting the war, and Marie-Claude took part in the writing and circulating of mainly pacifist literature. This continued after the armistice into the controversial period when certain members of the Party negotiated with the Germans in order to have the right to continue publication of their of-

the Resistance was an easy step. Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier joined other women leaders, such as Danièle Casanova, in a cell which organised anti-German propaganda. She was arrested by the French police in February 1942 and taken to the port of Romainville. From there, in January 1943, she was transferred to Auschwitz.

In Auschwitz and in Ravensbrook where she was trans-ferred in August 1944, she distinguished herself, becoming one of the leaders and defenders of the women who were imprisoned, Liberated by the Soular Front government of Leon viet army, she continued her hu-Blum, which was supported by manitarian work amongst the prominent in the resistance and the Communists, looked fav- survivors and was proud to be amongst the last of the exprisoners who returned to liberated France only in June 1945. From this period onwards

she was, as a heroine, and as a leader, one of the most famous members of the Party. She hecame a member of the Central Committee and was regularly reelected until 1982. She was a Communist deputy in the Consultative Assembly, and was continuously elected as deputy for the Seine, until November 1958, and then 1962-73. She gave evidence at the Nuremberg trials, was vice-president of L'Union de Femmes Françaises and vice-president of the International Democratic Fed-

She was also famous for her ficial papers. From this clan- Paul Vaillant-Couturier, the cember 1996.

eration of Women.

destinity to the clandestinity of son of wealthy Protestant parents, who was remarkably gifted as a poet, journalist 📶 ป orator. His experience in the 1914 war had turned him towards pacifism and Communism, and at the time of the Popular Front he became editor of L'Humanité. He was a determined supporter of Stalin and one of the first to publicise the activities of Ho Chi Minh.

Her second husband, Pierre Villon (whose real name was Roger Salomon Ginsburger). the son of a rabbi, was said to have been a Soviet agent from 1929 onwards. He subsequently became the personal assistant to Jacques Duclos. He was at one point jumped through a closed window in order to escape from the Gestapo. He remained faithful to Stalin and to his memory He died in 1980.

Marie-Claude Conturier, loyal to two such committed husbands, was discreet. She remained devoted to the party. When she resigned her party seat in 1973 it was in order to give way to Georges Marchais. She received the Légion d'Honneur and other decorations for her service during the

Douglas Johnson

Marie-Claude Vogel, wartime resistance leader and politiciun: born Paris 5 November 1917. married 1937 Paul Vaillant Couturier (died 1937), Pierre two marriages. The first was to Villon (died 1980); died 1/1).

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

Duffey has been one of the glo-

ries of contemporary bluegrass

music. His work with the Coun-

try Gentlemen and then the Sel-

dom Scene has helped not only

to shape its development, but

has ensured that it remains as

relevant a musical form today

as it was when pioneered by Bill

Monroe back in the Thirties and

Bluegrass developed out of

and "high lonesome" vocals.

ther", saw his music as a pure

form with clearly defined

boundaries, but found that

many of his followers were to

adopt a more celectic approach.

Duffey was amongst them.

A native of Washington DC,

Duffey came to prominence as

tlemen. The quartet of Duffey,

DANIELL Brigador Robert Bramston Thesiger, OSO, 3rd Royal Horse Ar-tillers, on 11 December, peacefully in his balance. Husband of the late Betins war tear Historia to the tate bet. It Function and service of thanksgiv-ing at St Ethelbert's Church, Hessett, near Bury St Edmands, at 12 moon or Thursday 19 December, Flowers to AE Thankow & Son, Isworth, Smitolk

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRINGES & DEATHS (Dirths, Adoptors, Marringes, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding, anniversaries, In Memoriam; should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14511, releptoned to 9471-293 2011 (24-hopt answering machine 0171-293) 2012 or faved to 0171-293 2013, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VVT extra), OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, func-They should be accompanied by a daytim

Royal College of Art Mr Ian Hay Davison has been appointed Pro-Provest and Chairman of the Conneil of the Royal College of Art.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Fork Colors and Just terms on he are a control of Hallaton, one Stallor Sing Formation When Kore

Changing of the Guard o manging of the country. Institute the linear histories at Property of the Country bloomed Regions of country in Charles high formal at Rosses (Garde, Han 17). House the for all Regions of Wales even in the Queen Country in Property in the Country of the Count

Marriages

For nearly 40 years the distinc- Charlie Waller as lead vocalist

tive playing and singing of John and flat top guitarist, Jim Cox

the string hand tradition preva- Club, Georgetown and proved

lent in the rural South in the a vital catalyst to the burgeon-

early years of the century and ing DC bluegrass scene. Regu-

is characterised by driving lar television appearances and

rhythms, tight virtuoso playing a series of acclaimed albums

Monroe, as the genre's "fa- tention: their long-players

as banjo player and Eddie Ad-

cock as mandolinist made their

stage début on Independence

Day 1957. They looked beyond

the standard bluegrass reper-

toire, incorporating not only vin-

tage hillbilly melodies, but also

straight country, folk-rock and

even jazz numbers into their act.

performed on a twice-weekly

basis at the famous Shamrock

brought them to national at-

include four volumes for Folk-

ways - Country Songs Old and

New, Folksongs and Bluegrass,

On the Road and Going Back to

the Blue Ridge Mountains: a

pair of fine albums for Saturday

Bluegrass and Country

Gentlemen; and a live set for

Zap. In 1971 Duffey and the bass

For a decade the Gentlemen

Mr P. C. Perrone and Mrs F. C. Stasium The marriage took place on Friday 13 December, at Woolwich Register Office, London SE18, between Pierre, son of Mr and Mrs Perrone. daughter of Mr and Mrs Mallette, of

Birthdays

TODAY: Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumona, Director, High Gosforth Park, 67; Mr Vivian Bendall MP, 58; Professor Richard Cassily, operatic tenor, 69; General Sir Desmond Fitzputrick, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, En-rope, S4: The Right Rev John Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbane, 77; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, SI: Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 61; Mr Thomas McAvoy MP, 53: Sir Malcolm McIntosh, Chief of Defence Procurement, Ministry of Delence, 51; Mr Charles Morris, former MP and government minister, 70; Mr Alberto Morroom, painter, 74; Sir John Os-born, former MP, 74; Dame Ruth Railton, founder of the National Youth Orchestra, 81; Miss Janette Scott, actress, 58; Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 50; Mr Roy Thomason MP, 52, Sir Simon Towneley, Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 75: Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, lecturer and writer, 82.

TOMORROW: Mr David Abell, chairman and chief executive. Suter ple, 54; Mr Ray Anderson, chairman emeritus of the Lockheed Corpora-tion, 76; Mr Michael Bogdanov, artistic director. English Shakespeare Company, 58: Professor Stuart Checkley, psychiatrist, 50; Mr Dave Clark, drummer and pop group founder, 54: Lord Croham, former chairman, Guinness Peat group, 79;

Mr Geoffrey Davies, actor. 55; Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Jersey, 64; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 67; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 72: Mr Gunnar Hagglof, Swedish diplomat, 92; Sir Henry Hardman, former senior civil servant ql: Mr Oliver Heald MP, Under-Secretary for Social Security, 42; Mr Kevin Hughes MP, 44; Mr Joe Jordan, sootballer, 45; General Sir Frank Kitson, former Comma in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 70; The Rev Dr Una Kroll, Dencon of the Church in Wales, 71; Mr David Mc-Murray. Headmaster, Oundle School, 59; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 89; Miss Edna O'Brien, novelist, 60; Mr Michael Peart, ambassador to Fiji and British High Commissioner to Kiribati. Nauru and Tiwalu, 53; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor, University of North London, 47; Mr Austin Sovage, Welsh hockey international, 55; Commandant Anne Spencer, former director, Women's Royal Naval Service, 58; Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, 64: Professor Maurice Wilkins, biophysicist, 80.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Nostradamus

(Michel de Nostredame) astrologer and propher, 1503; Tycho Brahe, asomer and mathematician, 1546: George VI. King, 1895; Paul Eluard George VI. Sang. 1997; Fain Emand (Eugene Grindel), poet, 1895. Deaths: Thomas Rymer, archaeolo-gist, 1713; George Washington, first US president, 1799; John Claudius Loudon, botanical writer, 1843; Albert, Prince Consort, 1861; Maurice Baring, novelist, playwright and poet, 1945; Stanley, first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, statesman, 1947; Sir Stanley Spencer, painter, 1959; Andrei Dimitrievich Sakharov, scientist, 1989. On this day: Max Planck put forward his quantum theory, 1901;

Germany put her first U-boat into service, 1906; Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911; Crete was formally annexed to Greece. 1913: women in Britain voted for the first time at the General Election 1918; Archbishop Makarios became the first president of the Republic of Cyprus, 1989, Today is the Feast Day of Saints Fingar or Gwinnear and Phiala, St John of the Cross, St Nicasius of Rheims, St Spiridion and S Venantius Fortunatus

TOMORROW: Births: Charles Cow den Clarke, Shakespearean scholar 1787; Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel engineer, 1832; Jean Paul Getty, multi-millionaire, 1892. Deaths: Jan Vermeer (Jan van der Meer van Delft), painter, 1675; Isaak Walton author of The Compleat Angler, 1083; Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller, jazz pianist, 1943; Walter Elias Disney, cartoonist and creator of "Micke use", 1966. On this day: the Ba the of Verdun ended, with 700,000 dead (338,000 German, 364,000 Atlied soldiers), 1916; the premiere of the film Gone With the Wind took plac, 1939; in Israel, Adolf Eichmann was found guilty of crimes as agains the Jewish people, 1961; John Paul Getty III was released by kidnappers who had cut off his ear, 1973. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Mary di Rosa, St Nino, St Paul of Latro-

Lectures TODAY

and St Valerian.

National College James Heard, "Christmas (ii): Brueghel, The Advantion of the Kings", 12pm. National Portrait Gallery: David Mellor, "Private Eye Times, Satire Lampoon and Caricuture: the visual arts of Private Eur in content", 3pm.

TOMORROW National Portroit Gallery: Paul Webb, "J.M. Barrie", 3pm.

The poor and wretched show us Christ

There are now more than 19 million people living with HIV in the Third World, nearly half of them women. State-of-theart drug treatments cost as much as \$10,000 a year; patients in African countries are often without aspirins or simple anti-diarrhoeal preparations to relieve their suffering. Theophista lived in Rakai, Uganda, and

she was very poor. She worked hard in her garden growing bananas, beans and maize, until constant diarrhoea, fevers, and awful internal sores weakened her too

She was visited every week by an Irish nurse, Ursula Sharpe. Ursula incised her abscesses and treated her diarrhoea with medicine, but, although she tried many treatments for her sores, nothing worked. For a while. Theophista's condition improved, but as time went by she began to get worse again, and it became clear that

She was dying.
One day Ursula found Theophista lying in the darkest corner of her room in awful pain with a headache. She did not have any drugs strong enough to kill the headache. "I held her," Ursula recalls, "and screamed inside myself, 'God, why don't you take her? How can you allow somebody to suffer like this?' But there was nothing. God was deaf. The woman

continued to suffer." While the white coats scratch around for a vaccine, a potion, a cure - a medical solution for a medical problem - it has dawned on us that the HIV/Aids pandemic is embroiled in a complex web of issues: poverty and underdevelopment, violence and conflict, and the skewed relationships

between men and women.

faith **g**reason

Brendan Walsh, Director of Communications at Cafod, the Catholic relief agency, writes this week about the forgotten African women who are dying of Aids in their millions.

wrong place to look for a solution to the Aids epidemic. But the churches, too, reached for familiar remedies when the first cases were diagnosed. Some voices gleefully suggested that Aids was a punishment sent by God, but church leaders - if often embarrassed by the social hin-terland of HIV/Aids - called gamely for a compassionate and non-judgemental

response. In several countries in Africa the churches provide many of the social services and more than half of the health service infrastructure. Many have taken up the challenge with generosity and courage. All over the Third World, they have set up education and prevention programmes with young people, street children, women's groups, sex workers, truck drivers, orphans, parish groups and prisoners.

But something more significant has happened than a decently generous and passably efficient response to a major health emergency, in the Church's prayerful responses to HIV/Aids, even in its of-The pharmaccutical industry is the ficial teaching, there has been an

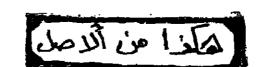
interesting change of language and style. One of the most tiresome traits of the followers of Christ is to put people into two categories: those who receive compassion - the sick, the poor, the unclean - and those who enjoy the delicious satisfaction of bestowing it: the healthy, the rightcour. the pure. But it is precisely this spirit in judgement and self-satisfaction that Jesus - to the astonishment of his disciples -

Came to destroy.

One or two other pennies have dropped, too. Globalisation is the fancy new word for the increasing interconnectedness of the world. Intricate economic levers and hidden pulleys link what the poor family in Kenya or Brazil is able to afford for breakfast to the brand of coffee a shopper in Huddersfield selects from a supermarket shelf. Rich and poor are two more categories that cannot be neatly separated. The rapid spread of Aids/HIV amongst the poorest peoples of the world cannot be unpicked from the way we live in the developed world, the decisions we take here. An alert compassing is nudged towards solidarity and a demand for social justice and human rights.

In this time of Aids, many Christians have experienced something of the same shift in understanding described by the Irish missionary sister who nursed Theophista on her death bed:

"When I went to Uganda I had all then: ideas about witnessing to the gospel with my life," Ursula Sharpe recalled. "But when I got involved with people who had Aids I found that they were the ones who were challenging me, instead of me challenging them. They still challenge me. They shake my faith so much that it has been rocked to its roots."





The re-creation of Christmas past. The Great Hall at Sulgrave Manor, Banbury, Oxford is decked out in mock Tudor. Photograph by John Voos. Nikon FM2, 20mm lens, 1/15 sec at F2.8, ASA 800 multi-speed film

the onswer the interpretation of the contract of the contract

It's surprising how even the most sophisticated of us adhere to the idea of a traditional Christmas. We may shop in Tesco and buy technological gewgaws but the lure of cosy firesides and tables groaning with Dickensian fare, however unreal, is irresistible. Inside we discover that we still decorate trees - whatever the expense - and play games, even if they bear little resemblance to those played in pre-TV days. And children still flock to Santa's grotto. The traditions are preserved – as long as they remain commercially viable.

-Coute

interview



John Walsh meets...Imelda Staunton

She plays the sexy high-kicker from the Hot Box club. Off stage she's a Celt with angry blue eyes page 3

Festive games
Chess, bridge
Crossword
Arts notebook

arts & books



The passion, the venom, the grandeur

Robin Cook MP on a literary look at Parliament which fails to match his own vision page 6

Children's shows4
Pudding smuggler5
Napoleon's decline7
A week in books7

travel



Big seas, big winds, a pig and a pot

Harriet O'Brien finds Cornwall in winter inspiring, exhilarating and – best of all – half empty page 9

consuming



What the tree says about our lives

The first was made by some lads at an office party in Latvia in 1510. It has been changing ever since page 15

Endowment trap	.19
Property	.24
TV & radio reviews	.25
Weather	25

If your boss has given you Christmas day off...



Pop the cork! Release the Cava!
You will find Cava is just made for
celebrations, and the more spontaneous the

For one thing, For can rely on its natural sparkle and superhyperality, for another, it's incredible value for more Cava is the sparkling wine from Spain that is made by the traditional method.

It comes from a land of rolling hills and valleys near Barcelona, where there's plenty of sunshine and moderate rainfall.

The perfect place for STANSS TROM

As well as being light, delicate and frogrant, Cava wines have a distinctive smoothness and crisp dryness.

It takes many months of careful handling to develop these qualities.

andling to develop these qualities.

No wonder Cava's so keen to get in the
glass when you open it!



ASTELLE CH - CONDE DE CARALT - FREIXENET - SEGURA VIUDAS

In pursuit of fun and frolics

Chris Maslanka picks his 12 games of Christmas

here is one golden rule for playing games add to any potential stress by choosing the wrong sort of game. Match the players to the game. Here are

The simple and soothing

jigsaw (p&) despite its vulnerability to the vacuum cleaner and association with the sick room, is still very much with us. The Agath: Christie Death on the Nile Mystery Jigsaw (Paul Lamond, 750 pieces, age 12adult, £8.99) attempts to marry the jigsaw off with the crime novel. Which clues lead Hercule Poirot to see through the alibis? As with an Agatha Christie proper, I suspect people will find arriving at the solution more satisfying than the solution itself. For the Captain Hastingses of this world the solution is in the booklet but, as befits the mystery, in mirror writing.

The Enid Blyton Sea Adventure Mystery Jigsaw is Lamond, big pieces, 250 of them, £6.99). Interestingly, the nine-year-old testers found it frustrating without a picture to guide them.

Best catered for were the younger children with the Elmer Giant Floor Puzzle (Paul Lamond, 22 pieces, aged 2+, £6.99). It was threeyear-old Sarah's first jigsaw and she loved the colourful and differently-patterned elephants. With only a little help she could reconstruct it herself. Keen followers of Barbie's fantastic lifestyle may appreciate one of the Barbie puzzles (Spears, 100-150 pieces, age 6+, £3.99).

Visuo-spatial matching, so important in jigsaws, is the means by which My First Scrabble Words (Spears, 1-4 players, age 3+, £9.99) imparts spelling. Is the child really spelling when she matches colours and shapes? No, but it doesn't matter, as the child is becoming familiar with the process of assembling letters to make words. The use of an alreadydeveloped skill (colour- and shape-matching) as a stepping stone to learning a new skill (spelling) is a sound educational and psychological principle. The puzzles can be solved by trial and error

without adult help; if it don't fit, it ain't right!

The Oxford Game (Palcon, 2-6 players, age 14+, £35.00) tests spelling and the meaning of words à la Call My Bluff. The three levels of difficulty make it possible for children to play with adults, though I doubt whether children would play this on their own. The spelling part was unpopular with my more dyslexic guests but very popular with those who confused knowing the meaning of rare words with linguistic skill. (p&)

players, age 8+, £13.00) is a family party game with simple rules. The object is to think up items belonging to a given category while a noisy timer counts down from 10 and paralyses your thinking. There are two levels of difficulty: hard for adults (names of liqueurs, famous statues) and easy for children (football teams, green things). Children can play on their own, but there can be some controversy as to whether an item belongs to a category or not, so watch out for arguments. (65)

Evolutions (Spears, 2-6 players or teams, age 12+, £19.00) is another category game in which players have to identify a word, product, invention, name, superstition, nursery rhyme, custom or cliché after hearing one paragraph's-worth of clue. Engaging enough and easy to play, it comes in a small box which makes it easy to store, too. (p 🟝)

Not to be confused with The Oxford Game, Oxford Games is a Buckinghamshirebased company producing a wide range of beautifullydesigned classic and historically-based games. Tabula (2 players, £12.95) is an alleged forerunner of backgammon played throughout the Roman empire from the beginning of the 1st century. It was said that the Emperor Claudius was so addicted that he had a tabula board installed in his chariot (presumably chariotcrime was not a problem in ancient Rome). (pt)

Trivial Pursuit in its many guises is still the king of afterdinner quizzes. The latest two



are <u>Trivial Pursuit Genus</u>
<u>Edition</u> (M & B, age 15+, £36) and <u>Trivial Pursuit</u>
<u>Annual (1997) Edition</u> (age. 15+,£18). The use of the word "trivial" in the title is a stroke of genius. It means that if you don't know the answers, it doesn't matter. If the sad character who knows all the answers (cos he's played it on his own many times) annoys you, remind him not to confuse facts with knowledge – it's only a game!

True or False (M & B, 2-6 players, no age guide, £24) is a variant of the trivial pursuittype quizzes. You have a 50:50 chance of getting it right so there's less chance to show off and more chance to revel in the fascinating facts

and check your gullibility, eg Crying was considered manly or tough in the Middle Ages - true or false? Answer: true eat your heart out Paul . Gascoigne! (pt)

One of the encouraging aspects of the Nineties has been the rise of the pub quiz. Paul Lamond's Burns and Porter - Pub Trivia Ouiz, TV (2-20 players, age 18+, £6.99) contains a good selection - 20 sets of 20 questions, e.g. Which Avenger shook the coffee beans for Nescafé in 1987? (Gareth Hunt). (p2)

Of more questionable benefit was the emergence of the national lottery and scratch-card fever. Those who played Lottery last year and who like popular music will

no doubt become addicted to Paul Lamond's Music Scratch-Card Trivia (no age specified!) where the answers are revealed by scratching the card. (pt)

Reminiscing, 1960s-1990s (Paul Lamond, 2-4 players, age 12+, £16.99) is an afterdinner game with simple rules and good questions. It gives you the opportunity to ' pretend you're younger than you are or to bond with others through shared memories. The game reminds me of a designer version of the psychological therapies used to consolidate pockets of lucidity in dementia sufferers. So perhaps it also offers you an opportunity to check that none of your marbles is missing. (pt)

If your marbles are indeed absent, Wacky Washer (Spears, 2-4 players, age 4+, £16) may be your thing. The object of this dice game is to pop all your replica foam....... clothes (socks, T-shirts, trews, shorts) into a washing

machine before they get spun out again. The children loved it. I look forward to an adult version using real clothes and a spin dryer - a cross between roulette and strip poker. To avoid tears on Christmas morning, note that batteries are not included. (iffa)

Atmosfear - The Soul Rangers (Spears, 3-6 players, age 12-adult, £18.00) is more sinister than wacky. You'll need a video and TV (which doesn't come with the box) and also the board from the

original Harbingers game, to which this is an add-on. Little

horrors will love it. (ff ?)

By contrast, Enchanted Forest (Ravensburger, 2-6 players, age 6+, £9.99) is a quiet, thoughtful game children can play with adults or alone. The artwork is attractive and the instructions easy to follow. You have to travel through the forest finding three treasures. Girls may enjoy this more than boys - it's fairy-tale stuff. (pt)

Adult fantasies are made of sterner stuff, as the awardwinning Power demonstrates (Spears, 2-4 players, age 10+, £27). You'll deserve an award too if you can understand the rules after Christmas pudding. It's a war game requiring cool planning and strategy (so don't drink before playing). The girls I played it with couldn't get into it - they couldn't understand why we weren't sharing our armies so everyone could win. (ರಿಸಿಸಿ)

If you're a bit of a namby pamby like me and you'd rather get on with people than grab their flags, you may enjoy <u>Compatibility</u> (Spears, 3-6 players, age 12+, £20) where you check the overlap between your associations and those of your partner (you know, like table-chair; windscreen-viper). (p 🛍 🖒

If war games, social bonding, shared lunacy or reminiscing leave you cold and you have a compatibility problem, you may wish to retire to a neutral corner and indulge in a solitary pursuit. I recommend the beautifullymade Lagoon puzzles, such as Soma Cube (£16). It comprises seven improbable: and aesthetically-appealing pieces which assemble to make a cube and 17 other shapes, rather like a 3-D tangram, or Grand Master (£14) a tile-sliding puzzle. (pt) With any luck, by the time you've mastered these two puzzles, the 12 days of

Christmas will be long gone. KEY.

p = quiet; f = noisy; ff = disturb the neighbours **☆** = almost irritatingly

 = handle with care ණණ = have a Relate counsellor handy.

Games People Play...

No 2. Richard Chivers, 50, barrister (whose name we have had to change, for fear of embarrassing his colleagues in chambers)

Did I tell you what happened to me in Northern Ireland the other day? A client of mine said: "Richard, I understand you enjoy shitting." My entry in Who's Who, I think, which is fictional. "Shitting?" - "Aye, wi' a gun." Shooting isn't really games is it?
Diplomacy, how about

that? It's a bit boring, I suppose. Each person starts off with a country in 1914. Every move is made at thge same time as everyone else, so there's no hanging about waiting to go. To be successful you have to have backing or you're let down, so you make alliances with people. Then you have to judge carefully when to ditch your friend, because once you've done that, you're not

trustworthy. There's a lot less luck than usual; actually I don't think there's any luck at all, it just depends how much support you get. In the end the aim is to conquer the world, so you've got to let your allies down, but you don't want to do it too soon. Generally Russia seems to win.

I haven't played it since I was at Cambridge. I used to play with my friend Johnny and his then wife. His wife made Bombay Duck. She didn't realise you have to deep fry it. Have you eaten raw duck? It rather ruins your concentration. I haven't played Diplomacy since.

It's the same as the horse game really. If you're driving along and you see a horse and claim it, you get a point. If you wrongly claim a horse because it's a cow, you lose a point, and whoever spotted your mistake gets a point. But if they're wrong, you can get two points by claiming a mistaken mistake. It doesn't sound much fun, does it?

Diplomacy, from Gibsons Games, costs £17.99. A Deluxe edition is available only in the United States. Bombay Duck is a type of

Pandora Melly

M(A) >

Don't junk it ... use it!

Nasty, messy thing,s children. They spill drinks and knock over grimy bowls of water that they are using to rinse their paint-brushes. Here's a child-proof, spill-proof way

Whatever happened to: conspicuous consumption?



The year: 1981 - Geoffrey Howe deflates (what a horrible prospect) and sets in train the agenda for the Sils, culminating in Nigel Lawson's budget of 1987. A consumer's paradise; low taxation, high credit.

The effect: Huge shopping malls appear on our streets, justified by \$1m Christmas bonuses from Goldman Sachs, Also Filofaxes, braces, Porsches, champagne, big advertising budgets, big dresses (with pads), finding yourself (amidst the pads) and saying things like 'I need to revise certain aspects of my

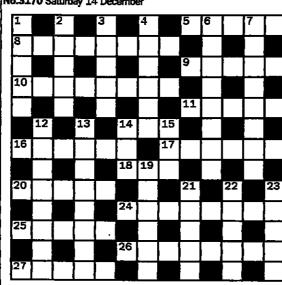
(OP) 12/20

What next? The economy busts - big time. Lamont's budget of 1992 recognises that all is not well, with thousands stuck in a negative equity trap, record unemployment and a balance of payments deficit of unimaginable, unmanageable, proportions. Investment, or even saving becomes the norm. Some even seem embarnissed by money. They close their accounts at the local sun-dried tomato store. In Margaret Thatcher's words a "new liverish left wing Puritanism" takes over, condemning the eighties. Greed is good becomes green is good.

The here and now Britain's dire exit from the ERM becomes a policy to secure maximum economic growth. The phrase "what's wrong with wanting to have a Porsche in the drive and a few bottles of bubbly after work?" returns to common currency, as heard in a city bar last week, and this week Harrods sell 30 hampers at £1,000 each to a single buyer. So are the 80s back? Something might have a braking effect on the economy and prevent this. Venturing to the shops one might trip over that other aspect of conspicuous consumption: the people lying in their

concise crossword

No.3170 Saturday 14 December



- Defensive ditches (5) Shafts of light (8) Pastoral poem (5)
- 10 Antbear (8) 11 Church members other than ministers
- 16 Work by More (6) 17 Walk like duck (6) 18 Chum (3)
- 20 Group of pupils (5) 24 Sporty (8)
- 25 House adjacent to Aston? (5) 26 Martinet (8)
- Trap (5) Gusto (5) Come out (6) 14 Stretch of salt water
 - People of experience (3.5) Revealing (4.4) Male horse (8) 13 Letters (8) 14 Plant juice (3) 15 Boring instrument

Attempt written

composition? (5)

19 Shrewd (6) 21 Timepiece (5) 22 Not fresh (5) 23 Yellow pigment (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Checker, 5 Count (Cheque account), 8 Lilac, 9 Pretend, 10 Chocolate, 12 Rum, 13 Tip-off, 14 Brahms, 17 Woe, 18 Many-sided, 20 Assault, 21 Opera, 23 Horse, 24 Dresden, DOWN: 1 Colie, 2 Ell, 3 Tip-off, 4 Repeat, 5 Crete, 6 Uncarthed, 7 Tidings, 11 Oppressor, 13 Towpath, 15 Restore, 16 United, 18 Mauve, 19 Drain, 22 End.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North • J 10 6 2 ♥542 ◊754 **4875 ♠**AQ85 ♥107 **♥**A96 ♦K 1062 ♦A983 **♣**Q 10 3 **♣**J962 South

♥KQJ83 ♦QJ **♣**A K 4 Declarer spotted his own mistake on this deal. Unfortunately he saw it about six tricks too late. There was

only one simple point in the play and, when you have got it right, you will have done better than a distinguished international who, to be fair, was enjoying a bad day. The auction could not be described as dramatic. South

opened One Heart and neither West nor East felt prepared to take action. West led \$2 and it all looked straightforward to

Arch line optima mists cradle

The six words above hide three connected one-word answers. To find them, you must group the words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. A Chambers Dictionary prize will be awarded to the sender of the

clubs, and time to establish a seventh winner in spades. The defenders continued diamonds and South ruffed the third round. There was, of course, the danger that he

might run into a spade ruff but there was no alternative to playing on trumps. East took his ace and, as feared, pushed through a spade for West to take his two winners, after which East trumped the third round.

declarer. It seemed very likely that his opponents' silence was due to their holding balanced

would be four trump tricks, two

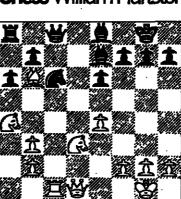
hands. In that case, there

This had the effect of establishing dummy's 🗘 J but there was a slight hitch: Declarer had ruffed the third round of diamonds with his three! I trust that you took the precaution of trumping with your eight. Then the table can be entered on the third round of trumps with ♥5 and a discard taken on the winning spade. As it was, South ended with only six tricks when he loss a club at trick thirteen.

first correct answer opened on 27 December. Entries to: Perplexity, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14

30 November answers: elephant (inELEgant Pet HAviNg a Trunk); rhinoceros (hoRn on HIs NOse Can bE aphROdiSiac); beef (BsE dangEr Food). Winner: Yvonne Abbess

Chess William Hartston



It's Black to play in the diagram position. What would you do? The position comes from Topalov Karpov, played in the second round of the current Las Palmas supertournament and provides a good illustration of why the players are finding it so hard to beat each other. Despite having level material and no clear weaknesses, Black is under some pressure. He cannot get his rook into play, and White's knights are poised to invade c5 and molest the Q-side pawns. Black would like to get his bishop to c6, but that involves moving the knight, which cannot budge until the queen moves and the queen has no good square.

Karpov solved the problem neatly with 1...e5! Now 2.Nxe5 is met by 2...Qe6 3.Nxc6 Bxc6 when the double threat of Qxe4 or Bxa4 leaves White nothing better than 4.Nc3 Bxe4 5.Nxe4 Qxb6 when Black stands slightly better. Since 2.Nac5 Bxc5 3.Nxc5 Nd4 is also perfectly good for Black, Topalov settled for 2.Nc3 Qe6 3.Nd5 Rc8 4.h3 f6 5.Qg5 Qxg4 6.hxg4 Kf7 7.Nxe7 when a draw was agreed.

Stopping inferior positions turning into lost ones is, after all, what true grandmasters do best



1 Take plastic bottle emptied on the previous occasion that messy child spilt its drink. Cut off top just above the half-way mark.



2 Invert severed top into bottom half. Push down firmly to create good seal (glue if you feel particularly insecure). You now have a simple spill-proof container, which will hold its contents (if not over-filled) even if knocked over entirely.

For added amusement, watch child trying to drink from it without a straw.

Bawn O'Beime Ranelagh

TURN TO PAGE 25... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio

Perplexity

Mixed doubles:

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON, AND WHEN, TOMORROW READ TODAY'S EYE

Travels with My Camera

Enfant terrible Keith Allen voyages around his father, as they visit his old schools and borstals - Channel 4



Sunderland v Chelsea

Roker Park plays host to the Fulham Rd Italians as Chelsea showcase their title credentials - Sky Sports 1



Doctor Zhivago

Hum along with the world's most famous balalaika tune as Omar Sharif and Julie Christie pursue each other across the backdrop of the Russian Revolution - BBC2



ike most other things in

the past couple of years

-comedy, football, cook-

ery, car maintenance - poetry

has enjoyed its few minutes in

the sun, being touted as "the

new rock 'n' roll". And while I

think this comparison is prob-

ably exaggerated (for instance,

when Seamus Heaney was col-

lecting his Nobel Prize you

didn't get Mick Imlah lolloping

on to the stage and flashing his

arse at the audience), it is true

that poets have had their pro-

At any rate, a lot more of

them seem to appear on radio

programmes these days. They

turn up as guests on Mark

Radcliffe's show on Radio 1,

reciting vers libre and swapping

witty apercus with Lard; or they

present their own programmes

finished a Radio 4 series on the

awfulness and the shameful

desirability of women's maga-

zines (qualities so self-evident

from the excerpts selected that

you could have done without

her commentary pounding the

In particular, you get an

awful lot of Simon Armitage. ceded him in the job, often irri-

message home).

-like Liz Lochhead, who's just

files raised considerably.

An Eye Full

Well-versed but off-beam

Your comprehensive and critical guide to the week's arts, entertainment and TV. Plus, Eddie Izzard on 'Cows' and '101 Dalmatians' on the big screen





Serena Mackesy In my week

revealed: beard in rollers every to keep it cash: get the parents to take them there and the rest will fol-

clifridges: cradle of consumerism. All your Christmas needs are here: Calvin Klein socks, bottles of perfume, dinky nibbles, candles, cherubs. paper, party dresses. Here, as in all the stores, we see the true face of Christmas: spend, spend,

spend, darling But don't forget, it's all about the kiddies. Every child has at least one adult in tow, each adult psychotically clinging to pieties about childhood innocence and upping their Christmas spend as they make their way to the escalators.

Being a youngest child, I found out about Father Christmas early. I don't think I'd gone beyond three before I started trying to stay awake all night to catch my father rather than some old geezer from the North Santa's Pole. The moment my

brother told me the · trace truth was certainly a turning-point, but it Secrets sure as sugar wasu't the trauma the anti-Santa brigade try to claim it is. Actually, I rather liked having got one over on 1 put my having got one over on the grown-ups: I knew something they didn't know I knew. I've never looked back.

But then, nor has the night, just cialism of Christmas. For a shop, kids mean

in trim' square feet devoted to the free Christmas grotto on the third low. The £25,000 and 2,000 floor are money well spent. Between mid-October, when it opens, and Christmas Eve, 200,000 wailing rug-rats are brought to see Santa and collect a handful of chocolate to smear over themselves. At this time of year, queues run at roughly oneand-a-half hours, rising to over two at weekends. Roughly 8,000 people pass through the yuletide portals on a Saturday, lining up in a separate room near the loos and the coke machine, squawking and wailing among the

crowd-control barriers. And essential to the spirit of

REALLY

from a triangle summons them forward to see the great man. "Let's go and see Santa!" they cry. Their offspring are often too young to understand a word of what they're saying, but still they surge forward, led by assistanis who help them out by saying "Hello, Father Christmas!" in bright voices as they enter.

Santa sits on a red velvet windowsill surrounded by teddy bears. "Hello," he says, "and what's your name?". "James," says a victim. "Camilla." says the next, "Louise," says another. A gang of eight little girls crowds round at once. He deals with it all smoothly, making each one say her name and her present requirements in turn. As an cashing in on his celebrity status, endless stream of other people's making an appearance on Ready

children skips and hops past me, Steady Cook

I suddenly realise that my own childhood photos aren't so bad after all. All children, en masse, look exhausted, pasty, clumsy: the words "foetal alcohol syndrome" race through my head when I catch sight of the sixth, but then seven, eight and nine look the same. Santa treats them all as Santa should: with affection and respect. "And have you been good?" he asks. Each child stands dumbstruck. "I'm

the whole thing is that the of tea. And that's when I don St, London W1, opposite grown-ups continue to fool realise just how far the fantasy Euston Station. Well, it'll make

YES. I'D LIKE TO PUT

YOU ON A PEDESTAL

AND SHOW YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS.

top of the queue, a tinkling ring cherished fantasies of department store Santas smoking rollups and cussing the youth of today. Not a bit of it. This man with the big brown reindeer eyes and the rouged-up nose resolutely stays in character. "It took me many many years to grow my beard," he says. "I've lost count. I put it in rollers every night, just to keep it in trim. I put it in a hairnet when I sleep, just to look after it."

Bending to his cup, he hooks his thumb and index finger around his magnificent white moustache to avoid tannin stains. "Usually," he says, "my assistants do this for me. I had Fern Britten holding my beard the other day." Santa, you see, has been

Something's going to have to slip, I think. I try different tacks. Where do you live? "I stay here, in a room upstairs; the reindeer have a stable on the roof. It's very nice. I'm very happy here." Does he actually like children? Or did he have to train to handle them? "I love them. It's my life. I didn't train. I was born into it." I'm

starting to panic. Eventually I crack, ask a direct question. What will he be doing once Christmas is over? "Ooh," he says, "we'll take about a week off and then we start all over again. There are so many presents to get ready, you see, and then there's all the wrapping."

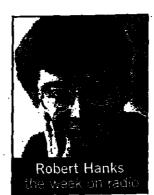
All human life is catered for this Christmas - there's even a seasonal treat for dustbin percussionists. This Wednesday (18 Dec) STOMP, the unfeasibly going to ask teddy," he says, and cool junk rhythm merchants, flicks a hidden switch that makes are holding open auditions for the Bruin at his shoulder nod anyone with a pair of big boots his head. He asks the mums and a will to drum their way what they want for Christmas. round Europe next year. Anyone "A new Volkswagen Polo," says keen to find new uses for an oilone. "A nanny," says another. drum should register by 9.30am Santa and I go for a cup at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gorthemselves. As they reach the has permeated. I've always a change from the grape harvest.

COURSE!

BUT OBVIOUSLY I'D HAVE TO

GET THE GALLERY TO

APPROVE !



Now I yield to none, or to not very many, in my admiration for Armitage the poet - witty, erudite, readable, rereadable, tremendous technical facility, eclectic range of reference, etc. -but about Armitage the radio personality I have my doubts. He's at his worst on Radio 4's Saturday evening poetry slot Stanza (between series at the moment), where he intones his script in a barely inflected drone, sounding as if he's desperate to dissociate himself from the words he's uttering. (Andrew McAllister, who pretated the pants off me but you never doubted his enthusiasm: bring him back.)

Points of Reference (Radio 4, Wednesday) shows Armitage off to considerably better advantage, by using him as a poet rather than a poetic personality. The series explores the disparate associations that the points of the compass have for us, through an assortment of interviews linked by Armitage's verse. This week it was West: we heard people talking about the West of Britain as a holiday playground or as repository of an older, Celtic wisdom (the part of the country never conquered by the Romans); about the west wind and the soft, diffused light of the West, about West as the direction of sunset; about the West as the edge of things, the direction we head in when we die and in which young men are advised to go; and about the West's brief reign as the centre of wealth and power.

At times, this wandered offbeam - towards the end it got wrapped up in discussion of the Western as a genre primarily masculinity - but overall it was can do radio.

gripping stuff. And Armitage's poetic commentary was witty, erudite, all of that stuff. Possibly his catalogues of geographical features ("Mersey, Irwell, Sefton, Wirral, Worcester, Shropshire, Cheltenham ... Cheddar Gorge, Severn Bore, M5, M4, M54⁴¹) and deliberate anachronism ("Lewis and Clark playing grunge in a West Coast bar ... Pizarro laundering drug money into an offshore bank account") seemed to place exhaustiveness above rhetorical impact, All the same, it evoked a startling succession of ideas and impressions, and Armitage sounded almost expressive at times.

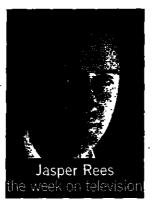
Unfortunately, the experience was spoilt by catching the last edition of Hearing with Hegley on Radio 4 later the same evening: with John Hegley delivering nonsense about disobedient dogs in an exag-gerated Modern Poetic, Armitage's straight version seemed retrospectively ridiculous. It all goes to prove the truism that radio isn't just about words; and being able to concerned with constructions of do words doesn't mean you

The not so cute little critter

his week Mrs Bottomley had a fit of the principles and called for more stringent controls on sex and violence on television. But her initiative to woo the couchpotato electorate with a hit list of televisual ills made some crucial omissions. Some viewers will be feeling particularly unprotected this morning after exposure to In the Wild: Asian Elephants with Goldie Hawn (ITV, Fri).

There have been repeated complaints about the dangerous levels of psychobabble gratuitously injected by Hollywood stars into the natural history films they present. ITV in particular has failed to heed them. Despite claims by some viewers that a film about tigers with Bob Hoskins left them feeling confused, nauseous and even, in one extreme case, in need of expensive psychotherapeutic readjustment, last night's documentary went out without any kind of health warning. Pressure groups are now calling for a sign advising viewers of the potential risk, to be displayed in the top right hand corner of the screen: the simple logo would depict someone in reflecting sunglasses admiring their own

image in a hand mirror.



pointlessly in the spotlight, can do something useful by budging up and sharing it with an endangered species. Invariably, though, film stars know next to nothing about the animal in which they are hired to be interested. On the basis that some form of expertise is better than none, they feel impelled to imprint a more personal form of specialist knowledge on the film. Thus they are usually to be found training hitech infra-red binoculars on their own navels.

Hawn's contribution to the genre, a themed tour round her famous anthology of wacky faces and kooky giggles, mag-nificently upped the ante. The focus of her mission was to You can see the point of the track down an elephant she had celeb-fronted wildlife doc: the seen several years previously. famous, permanently and This wasn't just any old endan-.

though she forgot to mention it a single mother. Something know why she loved Indian eletheir families." she explained. which is so important to me ... And they hold up their sick until they can't any more. I did that with my mother." Despicably, she loved them because

they reminded her of herself. Thank God for the conventional wildlife doc. It may bring its own cargo of clichés but at least it works hard to lay on a visual entertainment. Deceptive editing techniques, the tropical-fruit voice-over, non-appearance of star ani-mal - they were all there in Mountains of the Snow Leop-ard, this week's Survival (ITV, Mon). If you judged the film by its first paragraph the way you sometimes judge books. you'd have turned off in the time it takes Goldie Hawn to

say "I me myself".
"One of the world's strange sights is camels in the snow," it intoned. "We know them as beasts of the hot places." Not

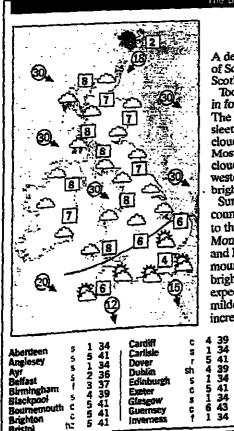
gered elephant. It was also a in this house, we don't. We blind elephant, and a mother of know them as hairy water a small calf to boot. Probably, porters of the Arabian dune. The snow leopard is a reclu-

sive creature: if a celeb were to really emote home about. hired to make a film about how She spent the bulk of the jour- much they identified with the ney telling us that she didn't species, it would have to be JD Salinger. Des O'Connor, phants. When she finally found meanwhile, might appropriher answer, you guessed right ately endorse a creature of if you thought it would be the irritating abundance: a pigeon, last word in solipsistic self- or something, a serial producer delusion. "They take care of of harmless effluent you try your best to ignore. He was back in Des O'Connor Tonight (ITV, Wed), firing off questions bought second-hand from a car boot sale of old newspaper clippings. The Spice Girls came on and gamely tried to parley him up as a groovy uncle. But some figures are beyond the reach of even the most intrepid of irony-clad search-and-rescue

post-modernists. The show should come with a corner logo warning viewers of lazy, morale-sapping televi-sion, say Sky One. The only thing more cack-handed this week was Match of the Day's disastrous FA Cup draw (BBC2, Mon), which really will be Sky's baby one day. The BBC Cup final broadcast is an endangered species (only one left), and no amount of jazzy

publicity will save it now. Understanding this, the cleverer Des had gone the way of the snow leopard.

WEATHER



REALLY LOVE

PASANDA!

Don't pr

General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

MoWi

A depression will move east today, passing just north of Scotland. A new low will move towards northern Scotland from the west on Monday. Today, mainland Scotland and the western isles are

in for a cloudy, windy day with rain, some of it heavy. The Northern Isles, meanwhile, will get a mix of rain sleet and snow. Northern Ireland is going to be cloudy and windy with rain for much of the day. Most of England and Wales will also see a lot of cloudy weather with showery rain and strengthening westerly winds. It will, though, start off dry and bright to the south.

Sunday will see rain across the northern half of the country. However, it should be mostly dry and bright to the south while winds become lighter everywhere. Monday will then provide spells of rain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, with snow for the Scottish mountains. Most of England and Wales will be dry, bright and fairly mild, but showery rain can be expected to the north. It then looks like becoming milder through Tuesday and Wednesday with

increasing southerly winds and rain for most places. 5 41 4 39 5 41 5 41 1 34 4 39 2 36 7 45 6 43 5 41 5 41 5 41 5 41 1 34 4 39

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy m,mist; crain; sn,snow; s,sunny; th,thunder *previous day!

Amsterdam c 5 41
Athens s 16 61
Aucidand c 16 61
Bangkok f 33 91
Barcelona c 16 61
Belnut c 17 63
Belgrade c 11 52
Benin c 2 36
Bornbay s 30 86
Brussels f 1 34
Budapest c 5 41
Budapest c 5 47
Cairo f 20 68
Cape Town s 25 77
Casablanca sh 16 61
Copenhagen f 2 36
Cortu c 13 55 1 34 64 50 64 50 64 64 6 7 18 64 6 8 6 7 32 7 14 8 2 19 6 7 7 2 8 2 19 6 7 7 2 8 2 19 7 1 1 3 3 4 6 6 6 6 7 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 7 2 1 2 3 4 6 7 2 1 2 *New Yor Nice Nice Nicesia Parls Prague Reykjavik *Rio de J. Riyadh Rome Singapore Stockholm Sydney Tenerife Tokyo Venice Warsaw Warsaw Mattheway

A:01pm to 8:10am 3:54pm to 8:12am 3:50pm to 8:19am 3:38pm to 8:25am

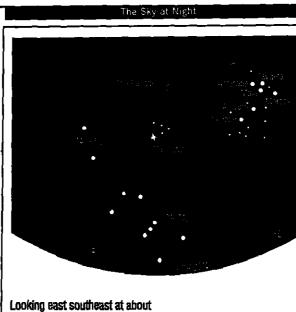
Godstone and A3 junctions as resjon widening work continues Gloucestershire, M5.117-20, Controllowin operation across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50moh speed limit. Resular rush hour delays, (Until August 1998). Leicestershire, A6 Lockington, Contraflo from just north of the M1 J24 to Sawley Island (B6540) as major readworks contime with no right turn to Domington ing work on Liverpool Road will cause

lane closures in operation between the

major hold-ups in both directions to and from Presson. (Until 10 January 1997).

Out and about with AA Roadwatch of 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls charged at 350 per min (cheep rate) 49p per min (all other times) for MAT.

eadings NO₂ Moderate Good Good Good Good Good



7.30pm on Saturday 14th December

The Pleiades star cluster in Taurus is a familiar sight in winter evening skies, and easy to find. Despite its popular name, "The Seven Sisters", only six stars are visible to the a young cluster of several hunnaked eye, though binoculars will reveal more. According to years away. They formed only myth, the Pleiades were seven beautiful nymphs, daughters of Atlas, Pursued by amorous Orion, they were rescued by Jupiter and placed in the sky

as stars. To account for why there are only six, it is said that one left her place so as not to witness the destruction of Troy. Astronomically, the Pleiades is dred stars, about 400 light about 50 million years ago after the last dinosaurs became extinct on Earth.

Jacqueline Mitton



Full Moon: December 24

In The Independent next week



Jessica Lange: object of desire

Madonna: Perfect Evita, or is she?

3:51pm to 8:00art:

-4:02pm to 8:10am
-3:54pm to 8:13am
-3:50pm to 8:20am
-3:38pm to 8:26am
-3:43pm to 8:42am

An Italian Christmas Sat 8.30pm BBC2 TX: Dreamgirls Sat 9.30pm BBC2

American Visions Sun 7.30pm BBC2

Travels with My Camera Sun 8pm C4

Equinox Sun 7.pm C4



The big picture

Notorious Sat 3.05pm BBC2

On the outside, Alfred Hitchcock's greatest film of the 1940s is a spy thriller about suspected Nazis holed up in post-war Brazil. At its dark heart, though, is a perverse love story in which American agent Cary Grant (above) forces Ingrid Bergman (above) (the daughter of a Nazi, but a patriotic American who loves Grant) into seducing the Claude Rains. Terrific suspense, great performances and Ingrid Bergman at her sexiest.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert

he weekend before the Christmas schedules begin in earnest is the broadcasters' equivalent of finishing off the scraps - long-running series have to come to a conclusion, and nothing too dainty should be served up to outshine these left-overs. Which nutritional metaphor, as Angus Deayton might say, brings us to An Italian Christmas - Recipes from the River Café (Sat BBC2)

The River Café, in Hammersmith, West London -

recently described by the New Yorker magazine as probably the best Italian restaurant in Europe - is actually more famous for the cookbook which bears its name. This bible of gastronomy (if you happen to have a wood-burning oven and access to top-quality Italian produce, that is) is an indispensable accessory in the home of any self-respecting young urban professional - even if rests on the coffee table rather than the kitchen shelf. It may not be the sort of tome one turns to after a hard day at the office, but at Christmas it comes into its own - especially if you are looking for an alternative to the dreaded roast turkey and plum pudding. Doesn't polenta with porcini

A Perfect Candidate Sun 11.25pm C4 mustrooms and white truffles, roasted loin of pork and world of haute couture into the realms of hard vin santo ice-cream sound so much more grown-up? Keith Allen, the former Comic Strip comedian who proved himself a strong dramatic presence in the BBC adaptation of Martin Chuzdewit, has always struck me as, what you might call, a naughty boy. And lo, it turns out he was expelled from school and was in and out of borstal. Allen's principal memory of his father (an oft-absent Royal Navy submariner) was the thought: "O goodo - dad's away and I can be naughty". This week's Travels with My Camera (Sun C4), in

which Allen and his father, Eddie, re-visit the scenes

of Allen's misspent youth, continues the circle by show-

ing the actor – a surprisingly disciplinarian parent – goading his own son into doing his homework. TX: Dreamgirls (Sat BBC2) looks at the work of that dark genius of 1970s French Vogue, the photographer Guy Bourdin - whose work was the technicolor twin of Helmut Newton's black-and-white fetishismas-fashion. Bourdin, who died in 1991, remains a shadowy figure. Mother-obsessed and misogynistic, he helped push the unsuspecting and uncomplaining

Robert Hughes is at full steam in the ongoing American Visions (Sun BBC2). Zig-zagging across the continent and the 1930s, he takes in skyscrapers, Edward Hopper, the social realism of the New Deal artists, the black diaspora northwards, and the hokey

vernacular of Grant Wood's American Gothic. Talking of hokey American vernacular - Colonel Oliver North is captured in A Perfect Candidate (Sun C4), running to represent Virginia in the 1994 Senate elections. Primary Colours it ain't, but the man at the centre of the Iran-Contra arms-for-hostages deal showed a great deal of naïveté in cosying up with film-makers RJ Cutler and David Van Taylor.

Equinox (Sun C4) looks at how the current antiscience populism is endangering vital research. Ironically, given the Vatican's historical antipathy to scientific enlightenment, it is the Pope's medical adviser, Professor Robert White (the only man to have conducted a successful head transplant - on a monkey), who is leading the fight for tolerance.



The big match

Zimbabwe v England Sun 7am Sky Sports 2

England's cricketers shook off just enough of their winter cobwebs against Matabeleland this week to make a fist of their first ever match against Zimbabwe on Zimbabwean soil - a one-day international at the Queen's club in Bulawayo. Captain Mike Atherton (above) has only scored 13 runs on the tour so far, but opener Nick Knight notched up a century against Matabeleland and bowler Darren Gough picked up five wickets in the same game. Today's opposition is a step up in class, however.

Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.05 The Pink Panther Show (R) (1254085).

7.25 News, Weather (2970240).
7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Speed Racer. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (5588882). * 9.15 Live and Kicking. Boyzone and Coronation Street actress Liz Dawn guest (S) (34119191). 12.12 Weather (1121379).

12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Racing from Haydock: the 1.15 Petros Handicap Steeplechase, 1.25 Skiing: Highlights from the men's downhill in Val D'Isère, 1.40 Racing from Haydock: the 1.45 Tote Multibet Handicap Hurdle Race. 1.55 Rugby Union: Preview of today's match between England and Argentina. 2.10 Racing from Haydock: the 2.15 Tommy Whittle Steeplechase, 2,25 Rugby Union: England v Argentina: Live coverage from Twickenham. Commentary from Nigel Starmer-Smith and Bill Beaumont, and the kick-off is at 3pm, 4.45 Final Score (86486733).

5.15 News, Weather (5145733). *
5.25 Regional News and Weather (6099646).
5.30 The Simpsons. Lisa falls in love with her substitute teacher (S) (780337). *

5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (338191). * 6.55 Noel's House Party. Uri Geller earns a Gotcha (S) (703801).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Art Garfunkel sings "Bridge over Troubled Water" (S) (759199). *
8.05 Casualty. Traditional pre-Christmas drink-driving

storyline (S) (594004). *
8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (885882). * 9.15 Birds of a Feather (R) (211356).

10.05 One Foot in the Grave (278462). 10.45 Match of the Day. Liverpool v Middlesbrough is the main event, followed by highlights of the World Cup qualifiers featuring Wales v Turkey and Northern Ireland v Albania (127426).

11.35 The Stand-Up Show. More hopefuls go through their stand-up patter (S) (438789) 12.05 Top of the Pops. As shown yesterday

(R) (2304115). 12.35 TIM The Internecine Project (Ken Hughes 1974 UK). Not brilliant, but original and underrated thriller which sees James Cobum as a professor of economics who is offered a top US government post as long as he eliminates the skeletons in his past - four soies in his European industrial espionage network. His plan is to get them to kill each other. Lee Grant, Harry Andrews, Ian Hendry and Michael Jayston co-star (3440405). *

2.00 Weather (1741937). To 2.05am. REGIONS. Waies: 1.55pm World Cup Football: Wale v Turkey. Scot: 2.25pm Rugby Union: Scotland v Italy. NI: 11.35pm Match of the Day from Northern Ireland. 12.25 The Hole in the Wall Gang. 1.00 The Stand-Up Show. 1.30 Top of the

BBC2

7.10 State The Saint Meets the Tiger (Paul Stain 1943 US). Hugh Sinclair as the Leslie Charteris hero, taking on gold smuggiers (3684424).

8.20 Open University: Women, Children and Work (3675608). 9.10 Seeing Through Maths (4747207). 9.35 Norfolk Broads: Conservation v

Commercialism (2776882). 10.00 Chanakya. Indian historical epic (S) (2008207). 10.35 Network East (S) (5368153).

11.20 Q Asia (7713066). 11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman (S) (9102820), * 12.20 (193) Top Hat (Mark Sandrich 1935 US). Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancing cheek to cheek through lovely art deco sets in this, their quintessential musical together. Eleven Irving Berlin songs in all, as the plot of the Gay Divorcee

is recycled and sent to Verlice (665733). 1.55 Intermezzo (Gregory Ratoff 1939 US). David O Setznick Introduced his new foreign import, Ingrid Bergman, to the American public by playing ingrid sergman, to the American public by playing it safe and remaking a film Bergman had previous had a hit with in Sweden. She is the plano teacher who begins an affair with the father (Leslie Howard) of one of her pupils. Syrupy stuff, washed down with Brahms, Liszt and Grieg (8864356).

3.05 IND Notorious (Affred Hitchcock 1946 US). See

The big picture, above (19584269). * 4.45 TOTP 2 (S) (1974795). 5.30 Estat Bhowani Junction (George Cultor 1956 UK).

The last days of the Raj – and Anglo-Indian Ava Gardner is getting grief from Stewart Granger and his pure Brit pals. Fine melodrama capturing the political mood of the times (25780207).
7.15 News and Sport, Weather (342172). *
7.30 Making Waves. To mark the 100th anniversary of

the invention of the radio, the story of its inventor, Guglielmo Marconi (S) (667820) 8.20 What the Papers Say. With Steve Richards of the New Statesman (S) (912375).

8.30 An Italian Christmas - Recipes from the River Café. See Preview, above (S) (5646). * 9.00 Have I Got News for You (S) (6356).

9.30 TX, Dreamgirls: the Photographs of Guy Bourdin. See Preview, above (S) (206085). 10.20 Crucial Tales. "Phoenix" by Rohan Leslie, about a half-Irish, half-Pakistani man whose parents and sister are killed in an arson attack. Last of these dramas by black and Asian talent (109795). *

10.50 Latter with Jools Holland. With Suede, Alexander O'Neal and Ray Davies (S) (393017).

11.50 10 x 10: Melvyn's Pencil (S) (100627).

12.00 IIII Jungle Fever (Spike Lee 1991 US). Lee's examination of inter-racial love - in this case, between married and upwardly mobile African-American architect Wesley Snipes and his Italian-American secretary, Annabella Sciorra (Followed by

Weatherview) (S) (16661776). To 2.15am. REGIONS. Scot: 10.20pm Tartan Shorts. 10.40 Crucial Tales. 11.10 Later with Jools Holland.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 9.25 Wow (S) (36887375).

11.00 The Noise. The Spice Girls and Gary Barlow are the guests (S) (3646). 11.30 The Chart Show. Howard Jones in the Video Vault

(S) (52288). 12.30 Champions of the Future. Young go-karters with Formula One-sized ambitions (39207).

1.00 News and Weather (82135882). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (82134153). *

1.10 Movies, Games and Videos. 101 Dalmatians is,

inevitably, up for review (5708153). 1.45 The Making of Star Trek: First Contact. Movie plug (21265530).

2.10 Hatari! (Howard Hawks 1962 US). Leisurely and generally underrated late-Hawks adventure about the lives and loves of a group of animal trappers in East Africa. John Wayne, Elsa Martinelli and Red Buttons star (20223117).

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (8750356). * 5.05 London Tonight, Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (8837530). *

5.20 Cartoon Time (6076795). 5.30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (820). * 6.00 Gladiators (S) (14998). *

7.00 Blind Date (S) (2269). 1 8.00 Family Fortunes (Including Lottery Result) (S)

8.30 ITN News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (800191). *

8.45 File Balman Returns (Tim Burton 1992 US). Fans of beautiful women zipped into skintight patent leather bodysuits will possibly get most out of Tim Burton's second foray into Gotham City, as Michael Keaton's caped crusader battles Danny

DeVito's Penguin and - more ambiguously -Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman. Actually, there is a lot to admire here - mest especially on the design side, although the script also crackles with Burton's trademark perverse wit. Christopher Walken, Michael Gough and Michael Murphy are in the support cast (S) (95906646). *

11.00 Digance in a Field of His Own. "Richard Digance entertains an audience of 800 with his witty stories, songs and poetry." Just passing that on (S) 12.00 ETEM A House of Secrets and Lies (Paul Schneider

1992 US). Connie Sellecca plays a successful TV presenter who is persuaded by one of her on-air guests that she should no longer tolerate husband Kevin Dobson's womanising. Dial "T" for therapy (886937).

Satellite

..50 Funny Business (S) (267*24*67). 2.20 The Chart Show (R) (S) (3883776). 3.10 El News Review (5033738). 4.00 The Best of God's Gift (R) (3590554).

5.05 Coach (R) (S) (1699863). To 5.30am.

4.50 Night Shift (R) (S) (31126015).

6.00 Early Morning: Sesame Street (R) (78882). 7.00 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (10269). 7.30 Really Wild Animals (1108172). 7.55 Hong Kong Phoney (R) (4183240). 8.05 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice (R)

Channel 4

(73/2998).
8.35 Hang Time (S) (6932172).
9.00 The Morning Line (S) (18998).
10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia, Serie A preview (28288).
11.00 Blitz! Gridiron review (S) (68004).
12.00 Sign On (S) (17838).

12.30 Inside the Vatican. Sir Peter Ustinov is your guide, this week slack-jawed in wonderment at Da Vinci and Michelangelo's interior decor (R) (9074578).

1.20 Madame O'Hara. Animation (82142172).

1.30 Racing from Cheltenham. Brough Scott Introduces the 1.55 Bonusprint Bula Hurdle, 2.30 Tripleprint

Gold Cup Handicap Chase, 3.05 Doubleprint Novices' Chase and the 3.40 Lonesome Glory Hurdle (S) (93010714).

4.05 Mecca on Thames. Repeat Witness film about the Arabic community which has settled around the Edgware Road and Queensway area of north-west London (R) (S) (1083172). * 5:05 Brookside Omnibus, Aka The Simpsons (S) (4125356). *

6.30 Right to Reply (S) (960269). * 7.10 A Week in Politics. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley produce the week's wryest politics show on the box (S) (762714).

8.00 The Saga of Life. Last in the short series of programmes charting the life and career of Lennart Nilsson, looking at the revolutionary skills that eventually enabled him to take pictures of the unbom child (S) (9559). *

9.00 ER. Greene treats a youngster who may need open-heart surgery (R) (S) (147207). *
9.55 Jo Brand – through the Cakehole. Gaby Roslin, Mark Laman, Steve Coogan and Una Stubbs join in a spoof game show (R) (S) (963820). * 10.25 NYPD Blue (R) (S) (810462). *

11.25 Eng. The Fury (Brian De Palea 1978 US):
11.52 Bg alma's follow-up to Capie also involves teenagers with psychic powers – this one sees Andrew Stevens being kidnapped by government agent John Cassavetes, who's intent on harnessing the lad's kinetic powers for national security purposes. De Palma at his most cold and Hitchcockian, but his obsession with surface style is beguiling in its own right. Kirk Douglas and Amy Irving also star (61919578). *

.35 Late Licence: Manga (S) (6137301). 2.35 The New Twilight Zone. A boy makes the shocking discovery of an evil force known as the Shadow Man living under his bed (S) (9941955).

3.05 United States of Television. Porn channels, the

Republican Party's "GOP TV" broadcasts and interactive TV shopping (R) (S) (5043115). 3.50 Mr Don and Mr George (R) (S) (90182383). 4.20 The Real World (S) (3592912). 76 5.15am.

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA As Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos As London-except: 12.30pm Mores, Garnes and vious (39207), 1.15 Film: Ernest Saves Chrishmas (72426443), 3.05 Carbons (8986172), 3.15 Film: Baywaich: Shafteret (592443), 12.00 Film: The Towar (402757), 1.40mm Carnel Knowledge (6986405), 2.35am Film: Project: Tim Man (9609641), 3.45am Halter Stelter (5456283), 4.30 Coach (41347), 5.00-5.30em World of Sailing (72660).

CENTRIL.
As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (39207): 1.10
Carton Time (9962):3562. 1.25 Dirosaus (30246714).
1.55 Eastern Mkr (21252066): 2.25 Movies, Games
and Videos (92614153). 2.55 Film: The Plank
(78803751. 3.50 Arwolf (9691646). 5.10 Goals Extra (5131530), 4.50am Jobfinder (79807641). 5.205.30am Asian Eye (1943660).

The serial child sales

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As Landon except: 12.30pm West: Movies, Garries and Videos (39207). Waters California off Seat (91724559). 12.45 Waters Rugby 2000 (91712714). L.10 West: Airwolf (9682668). Waters: The Electric Chair (30240530). 1.40 Waters Movies, Garries and Videos (21256882). 2.00 West: Carbon Time (70208511). 2.10 Stars. The Chairmas Shir (724085). 1.50 Kinisht [21250002], 200 West Cardal Hint (V05001), 210 Ring The Christmas Star (724085). 3.50 Knight Rider (9691646), 12.00 Rim: The Tower (402757). 1.40am Camal Knowledge (6986405), 2.35am Film-Police: Tim Man (9609641): 3.45am Heiter Steller (5456283), 4.30 Coach (41347), 5.00-5.30am

Re London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (39.207). 1.10 Touring Cass (30.240530). 1.40 Beach Videos (39.207). 1.10 Touring Cass (30.240530). 1.40 Beach Videos (30.256882). 2.10 Making of Star Tiels: First Contact (80085545). 2.40 Wegner Carbon (39.60646542. 2.50 Almosti (7881004). 3.45 Kright Rider (19.2172). 12.00 Fibra The Tower (40.2757). 1.40bm Cantel Knowledge. (6986405). 2.35am Fibra: Project: Tin Man (9609641). 3.45am Helter Stefter (5456283). 4.30am Casch (41.347). 6.00 F. 20bm Exercises. (20.2607). Coach (41347), 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (72660).

As London except: 12.30pm Modes, Games and Videos (39207): 1.10 Energias! (5708/53): 1.45 Wanted Dead or Alive (5247733): 2.20 Dirusaus (91264612): 2.50 Airwolf (907/0897), 3.50 Thunder in Paradisa (9697646). Anwork (1/1089/) 3.50 Trumor's resease (5691646). 12.00 Film: The Tower (402/57). 1.40 am Carnel Knowledge, (6986405). 2.25 am, Films, Projects. Tin. Man (9609641). 3.45 am Heiter Sketer (5456283). 4.30 Clipch (41347). 5.00.5.30 pm, Wight of Saling (72660).

SK: As C4 except: 10.00am Rookies (95462). 10.30 New Parnesmester (85998). 12.30pm Modewatch (*3784*9): Garnesmashr (85998). 12.30pm Modewatch (37849). 1.00 Fresh Pop (82133424). 1.05 The Playhouse (30235608). 4.05 A Cat's World (1083172). 6.30 Real Holiday Show (627); 7.00 News (349085), 7.15 No-son Lawen (3876191), 8.20 Hel Straeon (848191), 8.50 Lon Goed (364191), 9.25 Pel-Droad Cwpan Y Byd 1998 (217530), 10.20 The Hours and the Times (2384269), 1.35-5.15am Late Licence (66642370)



Radio

497 6-99 SMHL: FND 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling

Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00

Rap Show 12.00 Reggae Dancehall Nile 2.00 Essential Mor

4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2 136 YO, 186 FMP

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1,00 Arthur Smith's Amusing Bits 1,30 Smith and Jones Sound Off 2,00 Judi Soiers 4.00 Nick Barracioush 5.00 Dame Edna's Aural Expen-ence. See Choice, above. 6.00 By Jeeves See Chorce, above, 7,30 Dennis O'Noll in Concert 9,30 David Jacobs 10,00 Spread a Little Happiness 12,05 Charles Nove 4,00-6,00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 190.7 97. **100.** PM

7.00am Record Review, With 8.45 An Advent Calendar. 9.00 Building a Ubrary, Robert Philip surveys the available recordings of conductor Arturo 10.15 The Record Industry Today.

With the media still full of gloom

about the current state of the record industry, Anthony Burton discusses some of the issues with record company executives Peter Alward from EMI and Alison Wenham from BMG Confer. 11.15 Reissues. Patrick O'Connor samples include ballet music by Glazunov, Delibes, Khachatunan, Kabalevsky and Shostakovich. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael

Berkeley talks to the novelist Alan Hollinghurst, whose mus cal choices range from Schumann's enigmatic Camaval and Janacek's String Guariet No 2 to the love duet from Tristan and isolde 1.00 News, Vintage Years. Annette Morreau explores the life and work of Austrian cellist Emanuel

Feuermann, Including rare non-commerical recordings of music by Saint-Saens and Bach. (2/4). 3.00 The BBC Orchestras, Takashi Yoshimatsu: Threnody; Gullar Concerto; Symphony No 2. 4.15 Teares and Mourning A per-formance of the Funeral Teares and Songs of Mourning by Gio-vanni Coprano, the 17th-Century English composer. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. With

Choice

Experience (5pm R2) has Jeeves (6pm R2).

5.45 Music Matters, Ivan Hewett and guests calebrate the tradi-tional Christmas partionnime. 5.30 Live from the Met. Domizeth L'Elisir d'Amore. Opening the season at the Metropo season at the Metropolitan
Opera in New York, a comedy
about love, foily and the chance
of making a fast buck. The
lovesuck Nemorno purchases a magic elbur from a quack in the hope it will make the tair Adina fall in love with him. Sung in

italian. 9.20 Soeaking Volumes, is it more than just geography which di-wides the literary works of France and Britam? 9.50 Tea-lazz. Shostakovich: Jazz Suite No 1; Tahita Trot.

10.05 Scofield and Brecker, Guitarist John Scoffeld and saxo-phonist Michael Brecker recorded in concert at the Royal

Festival Hall, London, during the recent London Jazz Festival. Radio 4 G2.494.GHR; RE 1953/c LVD 6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather.

8.58 Weather. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway, Anne Gregg presents the latest holiday and travel news. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. Present. ed by Ned Shemn.

11.00 News; The Week in West-minster. With Simon Heffer of 11.30 EuroFile. 12.00 Money Bo 12.25 I'm Sony | Haven't a Clue. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions?

Things get very larky over on Radio 2, where Dame Edna's Aural everybody's favourite mezastar (left) joined by such comparatively pallid sex symbols as Joanna Lumley and Lord Archer, That's followed by the first broadcast of the lately revived Ayckbourn/Lloyd Webber musical,

2.00 News: Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Theo. By
Moya O'Shea. Made in Germany
in 1908, Theo is a rare cinnamon plush bear with boot-buttor he is Lot No. 107 and the auction is about to begin. With Mar-tin Jarvis, Thomas Connor and Ross Livingstone. 4.00 News; Making History. Profes-

SUD News; Making History, Protes-sor Christopher Andrew reveals how a best-selling historian gets to grips with his subject; why the work of a student may be too top-secret for his examiners to read; and what an Ulster his-torian makes of a war memorial which proved an embarrassme to the Irish Republic for nearly

half a century. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4. 5.40 in Celebration. Eviure Evelash so our eight million pairs of false eyelashes a year were sold throughout the 1960s. Longtime devotee Molly Parkin pays tribute to the spidery stack-one with the bold of devotes. help of designers, make-up artists and the factory workers of

Ownbran.
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.25 Week Ending.
6.50 All about Eve. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. An ex-tended interview with Richard Makey to mark the recent publi-cation of his landmark work,

7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Pau-pers and Pig Killers. Eric Pringle's acclaimed dramatisation of the diaries of William Holland, a Somerset parson who wrote about life in a small West Country community at the turn of the 18th Century. With Renald Pickup, Rosemary Mar-tin, Gavin Muir and Gordon Gostelow. (1/3). 9.35 Classics with Kay. Brian Kay

9.50 Ten to Ten. Richard Coles talks to Dally Express Editor Richard Addis talks about his

10.00 News. 10.15 | Am a Donut, By Mike Bradwell. As an American entre-preneur becomes more atturned to the East German pece of life, he finds the hard-nosed business tactics of his colleagues increasingly repugnant. (2/2). 11.15 Kirl. Dame Kirl Te Kanawa talks to June Knox-Mawer about

her life and music.

11.45 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe. By Peter Tinniswood, Carter Brandon takes his blood-red Beetle to Wales, and with him goes his Uncle Mort. (2/5). 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Rocket.

By Jan Broomfield. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

(63) 90% IMM 6.05am Dirty Tackie 6.30 Brian Hayes 9.05 Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Hold the Front Page 12.05 Baker and Kelly Upfront 1.05 Sport or Five 6.06 Stx-0-Stx 8.05 Treatment 9.05 Dal-lyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Whend Ind 11.00 Night Evtra 12.05 Word Up! 11.00 Night Edra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM

(100.6-10). SBAIL FAO (1003-101980:10)
6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Countdown 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Marın 4.00 Nick Bailey 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00 Evening Concert. Roussel. Bacchus et Ariane. Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor, Janacak. Glagolithic Mass 10.00 Classic Cluiz 12.00 Andre Lead 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Farstono

Virgin Radio [1215_1397-1260Mz 時 105.8種2 Fig 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ and Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00 Howard Pearce **World Service** (1984: 198) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Quote.

Unquote 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Peo-ple & Politics 3.00 News 3.15

Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short

Story 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday 5.30-6.00am Weekend

7.00am My Little Pony (8166795). 7.25 Dynamo Duck (6449820). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (42882). 8.00 Orson and Olivia (26269), 8.30 Free Willy (18240), 9.00 The Best of Sally

Villy (18290): 9.00 The Best of Sally Jessy Raphael (54714): 10.00 Desig Ing Women (15240): 10.30 Murphy Brown (38004): 11.00 Partier Lewis Cent Loss (70004): 11.30 Real TV (71733), 12,00 WWF (69462), 1,00 (71/33), 12:00 WW (69402), 13:00 WW (69402), 13:00 The Hit Max (45882), 2:00 Hercules (23:269), 3:00 The Lizzans Man (82849), 4:00 WWF (61:356), 5:00 Pacific Blue (16:08), 6:00 America's Dumbest Criminals (8627). 6.30 Just Durnoss Curninas (8027), 0.50 Just Rodding (2207), 7.00 Hercules (85707), 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (82337), 9.00 Cops (9580), 10.00 The Extraordinary (35248), 11.00 Stand and Deliver (62085), 11.30 Movie Show (11424). 12.00 Dream On (22270). 12.30 The Fifth Corner

(65937). 1.30 The Edge (63028). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix (26573). 7.00pm Earth 2 (1353646), 8.00 JAG (1339066), 9.00 VR5 (1342530). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (7135714). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (7144462). 11.00 The Hit Mix (1760240). 12.00 Film: Wait Until Dark (1967) (2179486). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix Long Play (5418370).

6.00am The Games (1970) (39040). 8.00 A Mother's Story (1982) (47849). 10.00 Mrs Doubtire (1993) (36284743), 12.05 Clarence the Cross-Byed Lion (1955) (3/16820). 2.00 The Salzburg Connection (1972) (89240), 4.00 The Sandiot (1993) (62753424), 5.55 Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (98212004), 8.00 Star Tirele Generations (1994) (11849), 10.00 Pulo Fiction (1994) (36146795), 12.35 Secret Games III (1995) (173028), 2.10 Body Bags (1993) (3927825), 3.40-6.00am Police Rescus (1994) (86743283). cue (1994) (86743283).

6.00am The Rains Carne (1939) (39022). 8.00 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947) (38191). 10.00 Silence of Adultery (1995) (59085). 12.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (28714), 2.00 The Day They Gave Ba-bies Away (1957) (87832), 4.00 The Steat (1995) (7882). 6.00 Sister Act 🗈 Back in the Habit (1993) (35266). 8.00 Mejor Leegue II (1994) (85761). 10.00 in the Mouth of Madness (1995) (884443). 11.40 Bitter Vergeence (1994) (460207). 1.15 Incident at Deception Ridge (1994) (170592), 2.50 A Dangerous Affair (1994) (599134). 4.25-6.00am The Steal (1995)

SITY MONTES GOLD 4.00pm White Christmas (1954) (8695004), 6.00 Arsenic and Old Lace (1944) (3082443), 8.00 Deadlail (1968) (3094288), 10.00 Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) (9386530). 11.50 Body Double (1984) (4767153). 1.45 A Rerewell to Arms (1957) (60968009). 4.20-5.50am Return of the Bad Men (1948) (34984399).

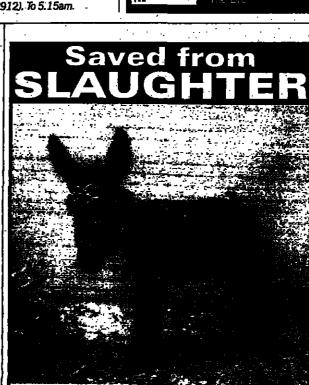
STAY SPORTS 1 7.00am World Sport (72761), 7.30 American Caustrade (40065), 8.30 Racing (93065), 9.00 Rugby (90530), 10.00 Hold the Back Page (84882), 11.00 NHI, ice Hockey (22265), 12.00

Sports Saturday (3755443), 5.30 Rul-bol Mundial (9714), 6.00 Rugby Union International: England v Aggstüna (43462), 8.00 Boxing (429356), 10.30 Boxing (76733), 11.30 Bushido (11207), 12.30 Cricket (33405), 2.30-4.30am Boxing (85028). 7.00em Soccer AM (2839356). 11.00 Footbell (2989646). 12.00 Cricleb England Tour Preview (3374952). 2.00

Engano doir Heliaw (3374532). 2.00 Watersports (9086527). 3.00 Pool (6405608). 5.30 World Sport (3579207). 6.00 Galf (4118646). 7.00 Sports Unlimited (6678849). 8.00 Criclet (6658085). 10.00 Squash (6660820). 11.00 Criclet: Hall of Fame (2973191). 11.30-1.00am Footbell; FA Cup Final Classics (3131993). SICY SPORTS 3 Str \$70815 3 1.2.00 storn Aslan Golf (43692153). 1.00 Motor Sport (42308004). 5.00 Squasth: World Open (41148795). 6.00 UK Staff Salling (83849337). 6.30 High 5 (8385937). 7.00 Asian Golf (41073240). 8.00 Golf: The Route to Perfection (79510714). 9.30 Rugby Union International: Fostand v Agrentina.

High 5 (94397337)

LIVETY 6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Bod 9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30
Spanish Archer 12.00 Campus Capers
12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love
1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fathion
2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Video Box
3.30 Fin Money 4.00 Saturday Sport
5.30 Seventies Pop 6.00 Fashion 6.30
Psychic Pets 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30
Raxelations 8.00 Bushido 9.03 The
Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03
Saturday Sport 10.30 Stand-Up Live
11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex
Show 12.03 Raxelations 12.30 Kiss Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Kiss TV: Kiss Lifestyle 1.30-6.00am Night-



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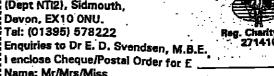
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Don't hold your breath over Guinness report

JEREMY WARNER

o finally, finally, after all these years, the Department of Trade and Industry is to publish its report on the Guinness affair. It might actually do so as early as next week, although the DTI was yesterday casting doubt on whether it could be ready quite so soon. The spark for this belated little act of public service is next Tuesday's ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on whether Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was unfairly tried over the Guinness shares fraud.

Whatever the judges have to say on the matter, the DTI takes the view that it is now free to publish the results of its 10-year investigation of how Guinness illegally won con-trol of Distillers in the mid-1980s. Conspiracy theorists will believe the timing is dictated by the Government's desire to deflect attention from what is all too likely to be another slap in the face for British justice from the European courts. Europe might wish to say, or at least imply, that Mr Saunders and others didn't get a fair trial, but this report will claim in the strongest possible language that he is as guilty as sin. The Serious Fraud Office will fight tooth and nail to uphold the Guinness convictions, whatever the European

I've followed the various twists and turns in the Guinness affair pretty closely over the years, but unfortunately I haven't yet been key people and to varying degrees on the orable to get my hands on a copy of the final gamisations they represented.

sonably well informed gossip and an earlier unpublished draft it is possible to surmise roughly what's in it. Don't hold your breath.

Ten years after the event and with numerous criminal and civil trials to sift the evidence, there isn't a great deal the inspectors can say which is genuinely new about this affair. The Guinness scandal has passed into history and that's what the report is - a history book. There are no significant changes in the law, corporate governance or City practice the inspectors can recommend, for the lessons have been largely learnt and generally acted upon, in so far as they ever can be.

It is, of course, the case that the inspectors can still pass judgement on individuals and organisations still alive and kicking - and they will -but it isn't going to surprise anyone to learn that Mr Saunders is a crook or that Morgan Grenfell, his City advisers at the time, disregarded accepted rules and practices.

From what I hear about this report, however, the inspectors have missed an opportunity. In their analysis, evidence and judgement, they mirror very closely the prosecution case aired in the various criminal proceedings. Broadly, this attempts to pin blame for the scandal on a small group of

Saunders they conspired one with another illegally to support the Guinness share price and that this was kept secret not only from the markets (for the trick would not have worked if everyone had known the share price was being artificially supported), but also everybody else at Guinness and its professional advisers. Ergo these are the culpable ones and everyone else - lawyers, accountants, City advisers and the like - is in the clear. Indeed the case goes rather further than that, for to work properly - as it plainly did in the first Guinness trial - it needs you to believe that no one outside this inner core had any conception of what was going on. Moreover, they would have been

they known, I've never believed this to be the full picture. It is largely true but the real story is more complicated - that the Guinness affair took place against a well established backdrop of cavalier practice and behaviour that encouraged the main protagonists into believing that if this was not quite the accepted way of doing things it was common enough at least to be tolerated. In some City firms practice of this sort was endemic, going unchecked either by internal controls or outside regulators.

profoundly shocked and tried to stop it had

I'm not saying here that any of the pro-

and we are going to find out about it. No one ever starts in these situations from the point of view that their client is a crook nor is it their job to act as watchdogs over the activities of others.

All the same, it seems astonishing that nobody suspected what was going on. At the very least they should have been more vigorous in their approach. In the cut and thrust of a contested takeover an anything goes culture rapidly takes hold. It is reasonable to expect established practitioners in these matters to keep things in check. Even after DTI inspectors were sent into Guinness the attitude among some remained one of relaxed complascency right up to the moment when the full enormity of the scandal emerged. Then everyone ran for cover.

The Ernest Saunders version of events, that all these professionals knew what was going on and conspired to pin the whole saga on him, is absurd. But with so many highly paid, top-drawer names around the table to advise and guide him, it is hard to understand how this could have been allowed to happen, even now, ten years after the event. There won't be much of this in the DTI report, however. The possibility that the whole thing might have been avoided had fessionals caught up in the Guinness affair | a more vigorous and professional approach | be running his own show.

The central allegation is that led by Mr aunders they conspired one with another should have been officiously running around is a shame for it might have led to a more legally to suppose the Guineau that they the place saying there's something wrong here rounded and illuminating report. The inspectors were in a position to tackle the question of whether the night watchman was asleep on the job. They appear to have decided not to.

> Nobody should be too surprised by the spectacle of Duncan Lewis flouncing out of his Granada TV job so soon after joining. Incompatability seems to be his middle name. He did much the same thing when he was at Cable & Wireless's Mercury Communications subsidiary. He lasted barely more than a year there too. Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen are hard task masters. applying a vigorous regime of management control and accountability throughout the Granada empire. In never seemed very likely that they would be able to work happily with Mr Lewis.

> He'll claim that he was never allowed the money or flexibility to do what he wanted with Granada's television interests. They'll claim he couldn't run a That's what hap-pens when you get a difference of approach in business. The real problem, I suspect, is that Mr Lewis wants to be his own boss. He wasn't, either at Mercury or Granada. Mr Lewis is the type of executive who needs to

Lopez stole GM secrets, court told

Imre Karacs Bonn

The former head of purchasing at General Motors, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, systematically stole trade secrets from the company as part of a premeditated act hatched several months before he jumped Vip for Volkswagen, German prosecutors claimed vesterday.

The allegations came as Mr Lopez was formally indicted on charges of industrial espionage by the prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, near Frankfurt.

Charged alongside Mr Lopez were three other former GM executives who defected to VW with him three-and-a-half years ago - Jose Manuel Gutiérrez. Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Pi-

said that their investigation had found no evidence that VW's chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, or anyone else from the German car maker was involved in the alleged espionage. Gerhard Andres, the chief publie prosecutor, said more serious charges of fraud were not filed because no measurable amount of financial damage to

GM could be determined. But referring to Mr Lopez and the other indicted executives, he said: "The accused planned to acquire business

documents from the research. planning, production, and pur-chasing departments with a view toward their planned joint move to VW." This had been premeditated and planned months ahead.

Mr Lopez, head of purchas-ing for GM's European sub-sidiary Opel had revolutionised the car maker's relationship with suppliers, preparing the ground for cheaper produc-

He was first approached by Mr Piech in November 1992. Following their meeting, Mr Lopez and three of his closest colleagues began rifling through. GM's confidential documents. the prosecutors allege.

In March 1993 Mr Lopez informed GM that he was leaving, whereupon he was offered However, the prosecutors a promotion, which he gratefully aid that their investigation had accepted. A few days later, however, Mr Piech trumped the counter-offer, and Mr Lopez this time handed GM his final letter of resignation and

took the first plane to Germany.

At VW headquarters in Wolfsburg, the GM defectors set themselves up in offices enveloped in a bubble of hi-tech security. Their mission was to develop the concept for an assembly plant codenamed "B" in

the Spanish Basque country.

The factory would be the embodiment of all Lopez prin- entire GM-Opel range in Eu-



Eye of the storm: German prosecutors Thomas Selfert (left) and Gerhard Andres during their announcement in Darmstadi yesterday of a criminal indictment charging the former VW executive José Ignacio Lopez and three associates with conspiracy to steal trade secrets when they defected from General Motors in 1993

Photograph: Heribert Proepper/AP

ciples combined; cars would be slotted together from "modules", rather than smaller com: 1992. ponents as before, and fitted on the assembly line largely by workers employed by outside

contractors at cheaper rates Only one such factory existed elsewhere in the world, and even then only in blueprint form: the hush-hush "Plant X" designed by GM and also des-tined for northern Spain. Those are the very plans that Mr Lopez is said to have stolen.

In addition to these plans the Darmstadt prosecutors claim that the four accused also pinched suppliers' price lists, cost information on virtually the

rope, and documents outlining GM's cost-cutting strategy for

If convicted, Mr Lopez could face a five-year prison term, though as a first offender he would probably escape with a

Lawyers acting for Mr Lopez challenged the prosecutors' findings, saying they had mistaken documents that GM had previously made public for company secrets and that many of their witnesses were not credible. Jurgen Taschke and Eberhard Wahle, representing Mr Lopez, said the charges would not stand up in court, and they would seek to have them dis-

Key dates in the Lopez affair

Lopez Joffis GM Spain Lopez appointed Head of Purchasing at Opel Lopez has first meeting with Ferdinand Piech, Nov.92 chairman of VW ... Lopez joins VW as Head of Purchasing, then quits to become president of GM North America, which he

then quits after a few days to rejoin VW 8 Mar 96 - GM files civil sult in America against VW for criminal VW sues GM for defamation.

US judge in Detroit rules GM can pursue claim for damages Lopez resigns from VW, but is rehired immediately Lopez and three other former executives formally

indicted by German prosecutors

IN BRIEF

Swiss operator picks BT as partner

British Telecom yesterday further strengthened its network of European alliances after it was selected as one of the international partners for Switerland's second licenced telecoms operator Newtelco. BT and Tele Danmark will acquire a significant minority stake in Newtelco, which was set up earlier this year by Swiss Federal Railways, Union Bank of Switerland and Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, the country's largest retailer.

Foster's settles forex action

Foster's Brewing Group of Australia has agreed to settle its civil action over alleged fraudulent foreign exchange deals against John Elliott, the former chief executive, and others. The others that are covered by the settlement are former executives Peter Scanlon, Ken Biggins and Ken Jarrett, the Bank of New Zealand and auditor Price Waterhouse. "The terms of the settlement ... re-main confidential," said Foster's, which had sued Messrs Elliott. Scanlon and Biggins in a bid to recover A\$66.5m (£32m) allegedly lost in fraudulent foreign exchange transactions in 1988.

Toad motors towards full listing

Toad, the car gadgets group founded by Chris Evans, the biotechnology tycoon, is tapping the market for £7.1m in a five-for-nine open offer at 80p, and moving to a full listing. The company, currently quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said it wanted to spend £1.35m opening another five or six depots to add to the existing 17. Interim losses deepened from £801,000 to £2.46m, but Toad is forecasting profits in the year to March 1998.

Burnfield to pay £24m for Ling

Burnfield has reached agreement to acquire Ling Dynamic Systems Limited for £24m. Ling designs and makes vibration testing equipment used by the aerospace, electronics and automotive industries. The acquisition will be financed mainly by a £20.3m, seven-for-10 rights issue at 90p per share. Ling made pre-tax profits of £2.3m in the year ended 31 July. Burnfield forecasts operating profit for the year ending 31 December will be not less than £3.5m.

John Lewis sales ahead 13 per cent

John Lewis Partnership said total sales for the 19 weeks to 7 December were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Sales in John Lewis department stores were 12.9 per cent ahead while sales in Waitrose supermarkets showed a 11 per cent increase.

Ladbroke solves Hilton dispute

Ladbroke has reached an out-of-court settlement in a rent review dispute with the landlord of the Paris Hilton. The parties have been in litigation over the level of rent payable on the hotel since 1992. Under the settlement the annual charge for 1996 and each year to 2008 will be Fr47m (£5.5m), indexed annually for inflation. Separately, Ladbroke said it has sold the 400-room Washington Vista Hotel in Washington DC for \$47m (£28m), to Interstate Hotels.

Asda launches unisex perfume

Asda claimed it was the first supermarket to enter the premium perfume market yesterday when it launched its first fragrance. George 1. The unisex scent is priced at £9.99, in a bid to undercut rivals such as Calvin Kline's CK.

Bunzl in talks to buy Filtrona

Bunzl is in discussions regarding the possible cash purchase of the bonded fibres business of American Filtrona, which is listed on Nasdaq. The bonded fibres business, which had sales of \$52.9m (£38m) and made operating profits of \$7.3m in 1995, manufac-

Halifax raises mortgage rate

Banking Correspondent

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender in the UK, finally raised its standard variable mortgage rate to 7.25 per cent vesterday, two weeks after its rivals acted on the quarter percentage point rise in base rates announced in October.

The move will allow the society to raise its savings rates in the new year when competition to woo savers is expected to hot up when several leading building societies plan to convert to banks, unleashing a £17bn windfall for investors.

first of the big societies to increase mortgage rates earlier this month. But Halifax decided to hold off until this week's monthly meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England before instigating its first rate rise since February 1995.

The move comes amid growing evidence that the housing market is staging a recovery and shows the need to increase the rates on offer to savers, who have lost out in the race among building societies and banks to win mortgage business.

"We always have to balance

Alliance & Leicester was the the interests of our borrowers and savers whilst continuing to remain competitive in the market. The recovery in the housing market continues and over the last two years borrowers have benefited from low interest rates and low mortgage payments," said Mike Blackburn, chief executive of Halifax.

The rate rise by Halifax al-lowed Nationwide, the largest remaining building society, to yesterday increase its standard variable mortgage rates by a quarter of a point to 6.99 per cent - which is still a quarter of a point below that offered by the large lenders.

Interest Rates

Bond Yields

Staring CDs Local Authority Deps

Treasury Bills (Buy) Dollar COs ECU Linkovi (Dec

£ Buys

Tourist Rates

Stock market jitters harumered another two new issues yesterday when Oxford Biomedica shares opened at less than half their placing price and it emerged that Fountain Forestry was cutting by 50 per cent the amount being raised from its own Alternative Investment

They ended slightly up at 47.5p. Sentiment took a dive earlier this week when it was revealed that the two main underwriters. Stockton Trading, a Bahamianregistered company, and Kaj Kjellquist, a private Swedish investor, had withdrawn their combined £5m commitment to underwrite the £6.15m then being raised. The move forced float, and Xenova has been the company to delay first dealings until yesterday and reduce the amount being raised to £5m, which Oxford said was its

brokers Teather & Greenwood said the company was reserving its right to take legal action against the underwriters, whose actions were the main cause of the "appalling" opening price. The flop is the latest in a list of disappointing biotechnology flotations. Earlier this year, Cambrio abandoned plans to

forced to cut the amount being raised by £2.4m to £22.6m. The news came as Fountain Forestry, which manages 80,000 hectares of forest and clears leaves from railway lines, said its placing would raise £2.25m,

half the original target of £4.5m

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Oxford Biomedia's début flops

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Percy Lomax of sponsoring

inally sought up to £11m.

Magnus Grimond

Market flotation.

Oxford, a biotechnology group backed by Oxford Uni-versity, saw its shares start dealings on AIM at just 42.5p yesterday morning, some 52 per cent below the 88p at which the shares were priced in October.

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Netanyahu's coming war

As Israelis and Palestinians bury their dead in the West Bank, Robert Fisk visits southern Lebanon where he finds evidence of a conflagration in the making

n explosion is com-ing in the Middle East, a detonation forever. We in the West have largely chosen not to heed the signs of impending calamity, preferring instead to pretend that the long-dead and deeply flawed "peace process" still has life in its decaying body, that the venal institutions of the Palestinian authority may yet control their society and create a democratic state or that the Israeli prime minister really means peace when he orders the seizure of more Arab land on the West Bank (or Jewish homes.

But the Arab world is bracing itself for the shock wave of terrible events over the coming months as a right-wing Israel is confronted by the fury of those Arabs who believe they have been betrayed not only by Israel and by meaningless peace agreements but by the United States, which acted as guarantor of every treaty and every annex.

Just where the explosion will come may seem academic. Will it be in Ramallah, besieged by Israeli troops since the murder of a Jewish settler and her son in the occupied West Bank. claimed by a Palestinian group based in Damascus? Will it come in Hebron, from which Israel has failed to withdraw troops under the terms of its own signed agreement with the Palestinians? In Yasser Arafat's slum state of Gaza? Or will it come - and again, the world pays no attention to this possi-bility - in Lebanon? For if Benjamin Netanyahu is, as presidents Mouharak and Assad and King Hussein suspect, deliberorder to destroy even the memthe answer may be found on a treeless, wind-swept hillside called Jebel Basil. One of a series of low, stony escarpments in southern Lebanon, it forms part of the dividing line between Israel's occupation army in Lebanon and the United Nations zone to the north.

The terrain is important because, on 9 November, the Israelis, while manning an artillery compound on top of a neighbouring hill, sent one of their American-made M-60 tanks - known in Israel as a "Magash" - down a small road cut into the side of Jebel Basil. With their vehicle draped in armour, the tank crew had no reason to fear the journey. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah, which attacks Israel's occupation troops daily, had been unable to damage Israeli tanks with their wire-guided, Russian-made Saggar missiles.

On this occasion, however, a Nepalese soldier serving with the UN saw a Hizbollah man preparing to fire a new kind of missile from behind a large bush on Jebel Basil. The rocket soared across the hillside, made contact with the tank and burned its way through the armour, exploding when it had penetrated the hull. One Israeli soldier was killed and two others seriously wounded.

Just 24 hours later, the Israelis sent another heavily armoured M-60 to drag the carcass of the destroyed tank away. Again, the Hizbollah were waiting and again they fired a missile which burned through inches of armour, detonating inside the tank, this time badly wounding the three man crew. Eyewitnesses were quick to recognise the new weapon as a Russian 113 "Koncurs" anti-tank Spandrel by Nato - which uses a shaped charge Heat (high explosive anti-tank) warhead to burn through armour.

The Israelis were equally quick to react. They secretly withdrew all their M-60 tanks from southern Lebanon, replacing them with the better armoured Israeli-made Merkavas. With equal secrecy, they abandoned at night one of their strongest compounds above the Litani river at Alman, which is subject to daily missile attacks. Confidential orders were given to Israeli troops that the Hizbollah had so deeply infiltrated the ranks of Israel's own satrap militia, the "South Lebanon Army", that they were no longer to mount joint patrols with the militiamen nor share artillery compounds with them.

srael, in other words, is on the run in southern Lebanon. The roads are so prone to guerrilla attack that at least one Israeli position is now resupplied from the sea by Zodiak dinghies launched from gunboats. The commander of Israel's SLA militia, Antoine Lahd, has been sentenced to death in absentia by a Lebanese military court, while one of Israel's Lebanese collaborators, after being convicted of planting a bomb which killed the brother of a pro-Iranian Hizbollah sympathiser and two civilians, was put before a firing squad in a Beirut prison. The only publicly stated response to this fiasco was the announcement by Israel that it had formed a supposedly elite military squad in its Lebanese occupation zone known as Egoz - the Hebrew word for walnut.

Far from being élite, Egoz was responsible for laying booby-trap bombs in the UN zone during last April's Israeli-Hizbollah war, a mine-setting exercise that was ambushed by Hizbollah from near the Qana



UN headquarters; Israel's "exactly who is being trained Washington that would have response to that ambush was to and for what missions are fire back, slaughtering more than 100 civilians sheltering inside. "We know how to crack walnuts," Hizbollah radio replied. "They are hard on the tside but soft inside."

What has worried UN officers in Lebanon, however, has been the journalistic and political response to these largely uncovered events. First, the Israeli press and then American journalists began reporting, in remarkably similar language, a massive new "terrorist" threat in Lebanon. No sooner had the Jerusalem Post proclaimed the Bahraini, Saudi, Algerian, Kuwaiti, Kurdish, Sudanese, Bosnian and even Basque separatists were training in Lebanese "terrorist" camps. The report quoted unnamed security "officials" - some of even if it did coyly admit that peace" deal brokered by

among the many mysteries..."! By 24 November, the

Boston Globe was reporting "In Mideast, a renewal of terror", adding that "the Middle East seems to be slipping back into its old ways" - whatever that means. Another American paper speculated on the ibility of a Hizbollah missile attack on Haifa - Hizbollah have no missile capable of reaching that city - and of a Syrian "decision" (unsourced) to give greater support to "terror groups". By Tuesday this week, Israeli joint chief of danger than the Washington staff General Matan Vilnai Post was reporting from the was saying that Israel will Lebanese city of Baalbek that strike "very hard" if Syria went to war. Syria, of course, gives its encouragement to Hizbollah, allows weapons to pass through Damascus, and is in no mood to restrain the guerrilla group when the Israelis are publicly washing whom were presumably Israeli their hands of the "land for

returned the Golan Heights to

ebanon fears that they understand all too well both the journalism and repeated threats of massive retaliation by Israel. "The Israelis are preparing the ground," a Western military officer said this week. "Maybe they won't strike, but they are preparing public opinion for large-scale military action in Lebanon - against Hizbollah, against the Syrians. They want the Syrians to realise who's boss - and they want the Syrians to come to the negotiating table without getting Golan back. Where are all these 'terrorists'? What is all this nonsense about Basque ETA guerrillas? This is the same rubbish the Israelis had the press writing before they invaded in 1982, only then it was Palestinian 'terror camps'."

Americans by these reports most of them inspired, of course, by knied that they sent a military delegation to Tel Aviv to find out if there really was a military threat from mass "terrorism" or from the Syrian

army. They discovered, according to an impeccable source. that the Israeli reports were mostly based on an outdated Israeli army logistics department document. In Beirut, US embassy officials summoned UN personnel in the hope of the West of the coming confla learning whether Hizbollah was gration. Moubarak is said by really threatening a mass "terrorist" attack. American intelligence operatives concluded that the reports were rubbish. and that Israel's prime concern - far from being "terrorism" -was that Hizbollah guerrillas were effectively making life impossible for Israel's occupation force in southern Lebanon. The fact that this occupation

only continues because Israel wishes to have a strong hand in any future Israeli-Lebanese So convinced were the peace talks has long been pays the first price.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu weeps at the funeral of the troo scitlers murdered near Ramallah this week Photograph: Reuters

acknowledged by the UN and more privately, by the Uniter States. The occupation zone (10 per cent of Lebanon) does not protect Israel, a fact amply demonstrated in April when, in response to a booby-trap bomb that killed a Lebanese boy - the work of Egoz, they suspect -Hizbollah fired hundreds of Katyushas across the border. Since April. 24 Lebanese civilians have been wounded by Israeli gunfire - in the same period, no Israeli civilians have been hurt by Hizbollah. Israel has lost 18 occupation soldiers since April; Hizbollah lost 20 guerrillas - in other words, a low-intensity war, but nothing to justify the bellicose words the Lebanese have been listening to

t fears are growing in Lebanon, not least because Washington. freed from presidential elections, appears to be as supine as ever in the face of Israel's every wish. Whom Netanyahu announced further Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem - an act that effectively destroyed any hope of final stage talks in the "peace process" - the State Depart-ment did not even condemn -a "complicating factor". · · · An assault on Lebanon is not

ficely to elicit any more courageous comment from Washington. The appointment of the faithfully pro-Israeli Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State produced only one comment from Lebanon's president, Elias Hrawi. 'God

protect us," he said. Across the Arab world, they are saying much the same. Presidents and kings are all warning those closest to him to be in a state of deep despair. King Hussein is even reported to have considered breaking off all ties with Israel. President Assad, still politely urging the Americans to intervene, has no illusions. "Will the Israelis continue to defy the will of the whole world while the international community does nothing?" one Syrian paper asked this week. They probably will. And it may well be Lebanon, as usual, that

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jo brand's At one point we had to do quite a lot. At the traffic lights, various blokes ply their wares to disgruntled travellers sitting nose to tail. The other day my reverie was

Selfridges, having agreed to work there for two hours on behalf of the Terrence Higgins Trust. Selfridges was donating 10 per cent of takings for the evening. I have to confess these things are an ordeal. One has to steel oneself to be an exhibit and to be moved around as required. The usual gaggle of charming photographers had their imaginations working overtime in Santa's grotto as they suggested I drape myself seductively over Santa, who looked as unhappy about the idea as I did. The experience was eased to a great extent by the staff, who whisked me round and let me have the odd sneaky fag behind various displays (Thank you Tony, Paul, Penny and Mark). Other people off the telly were doing similar things ("Go on Jo, give 'im a kiss," as I passed Richard Wilson). But there's no doubt that doing some good does do you good. Everyone in Selfridges was in such a good mood that I can't imagine why they don't do it every day. Well, perhaps I can.

Sitting in a queue of traffic on the A40 out of London to Oxford is something I do

interrupted by someone shouting at me, "Oi, Jo!" I turned to see a lorry driver. "Oh Gawd, here we go," I thought - and then realised he was proffering a bunch of roses. With a cheery "Happy Christmas," he passed them to me. What a surprise, because I wasn't even wearing

As the Mirror metamorphoses into The Sun, with just the lack of a pair of exposed mammaries to choose between them, it is depressing to realise that the vast majority of people in this country who purchase newspapers - and I use that term loosely - are being challenged intellectually only up to the age of nine. This presumably must be why women are concerned only about Tony Blair's barnet. why no one gives a toss about Europe and why supermodels' opinions on life are valued. The tabloids are a depressing indictment of contemporary British life ... Oh yeah, and they slag me off

all the time too.

A company from America has taken over its first British prison, heralding, one would imagine, a bit of a rush by the Americans to sort out our criminal population, as if they hadn't got enough to do back home. Still, it's not really about that is it, silly me: it's about making profits on the backs of a section of the population many of whom started life without a hope. Not having a hope in England does put you in a slightly better position than not having a hope in America, where the size of the prison population is a testament to the desperation of people who have nothing in the richest society in the world. Still, an American ethos which is all but ingrained in this country

anyway will ensure that the

Corrections Corporation of America will be able to drum up plenty of new business,

All those fitness-obsessed people who have tried to force relentless sporting activity down the throats of the rest of us must be very saddened this week to discover that research has shown that young types who take part in non-team sports such as aerobics and tennis are far more likely to become delinquents than those who don't. I have to confess having only been to aerobics once in my life, some 10 or so years ago, and it was the most hideous nightmare I have ever indulged in which seemed to me reminiscent of the atmosphere of those Hitler Youth mass exercises.

arm exercises to the extended version of "Free Nelson Mandela", and I found myself thinking after some minutes, "I wish they bloody would," if torment. I never went back and I can say, with my poor limp hand on my heart, that since then I've not even indulged in the teeniest bit of shoplifting.

The ego of some people is breathtaking sometimes. I saw a little snippet of news this week about an Essex businessman who has recently paid £80,000 to have a personalised number plate bearing his name, "Nigel". I cannot understand why you would want to drive roo and demonstrate to the rest of the traffic on the road that you are prepared to spend a large fortune on attaching your own "I'm a bit of a big head" name to your vehicle. Spending that amount of money on a minor ego massage, when it could have gone to a million better places, seems obscene to me. I'd like to creep up his drive one night and replace it with a new number plate bearing the legend "Knobbe that is what he is.



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Trent Harr

Spice

They have sold millions in Japan, where 'Wannabe probably means I love squirrels'



op stars don't win elec-tions. Billy Bragg failed to secure the youth vote for Kinnock and David Bowie's contribution to the triumph of Mrs Thatcher has not been hought worthy of a published thesis by Professor Anthony King of Essex University. Nor will the interview with the Spice Girls - as featured in this week's Spectator - do very much to save John Major. As was admitted recently by a Labour PR man, celebrity endorsement is important only in the sense that "you look sad if you don't have any,'

For those unfamiliar with the pop scene, the Spice Girls are the latest in a long line of tame early teen idols, inheritors of the mantle of the Bay City Rollers, Bros and Take That Their unique selling proposition is that they are feisty, inyour-face females. They have, of course, sold millions in Japan, where "Wannabe" (their latest hit) probably means "I love squirrels"

They are also brilliantly marketed as collectables. Each one has a different name and gimroick (Sporty, Scary, Ginger, resh and Baby Spice). It can only be a matter of time before the manufacturers of Barbie or Sindy release all five at £13.99 a shot and parents find themselves purchasing the set. Hardly will they have done this than the Spice Girls will split up and be replaced by John Thaw and Kevin Whateley singing

cover versions of Elvis Presley. So bloody what? Given all the above, what does it matter that these young women should embrace the cause of low taxation, the House of Lords, the monarchy, Europhobia and free love (a combination that, cerily, suggests an image of Mrs T romping topless on a Californian beach)? And it is hardly surprising that the Spectator, in its current right-wing anarchistic incarnation, should so approve of young women whose approach to life is materialistic, uncluttered by youtha ful principle and hedonistic.
That is no reason for the rest of

us to lose sleep. Nor is their ignorance in any way unique. When Geri (Ginger Spice) argues against European integration on the basis that "Britain was the first to break away from the Roman Empire"(Yippee, here come the Dark Ages!), at least she knows that the islands were

once under the sway of Rome. I wouldn't swear that Kiki Dee knows as much. When Geri goes on to assert that "we travel through Europe and all those countries look the same. Only England looks different," we can afford to smile, knowing that a quick visit to Siena followed by a trip to Heligoland ought to sort that one out. The simultaneous belief in the hereditary principle ("earls and dukes are good for tourism") and pure meritocracy suggests an unformed quality in the Girls' thinking.
And yet I bate this interview

and I hate them for giving it and I hate their interviewer - Simon Sebag Montefiore - for enjoying it so much. The one line which sums it up for me is this: "Labour does things for everyone, which might create lazi-ness." This is the pure doctrine of welfare dependency, which I am prepared to accept from those who believe in decent state-funded education, a minimum wage and assistance to return to work (ie those who have an alternative to dépendency other than immiseration), but not from those whose sole criticism of Blair is that they do not like his tax policies.

Well, drawls my pal from the letters section, what's the big deal? They have absorbed the orthodox drivel of the pure market much as you and I (a large hand drops sympatheti-cally on my shoulder) absorbed all that Pabian drivel about redistribution and demand-led -economies:.Chill-out.

Ah yes, I think, but our drivel was better than their drivel. Our drivel was about the need to improve life for people, about moral responsibility, about no man being an island. It was only as we got older that we discovered that it was difficult to do. But their drivel means that they don't want to do it at all, even if it was easy! They don't start idealistic and become realistic; they start cynical and will become monstrous.

Up pops another friend. The polls tell us (should we care to listen) that among no section of the population is Labour's lead as great as among 18-24-yearold women. The Spice Girls are out of tune. Maybe. But there's something in this Tamara Beck-with, have-it-all, tolerant but apathetic, supremely individualistic culture which suggests that (as Cyndi Lauper didn't sing) girls just wanna be shits.

Everyone's whistling Dixie these days

your Con-federate тюпеу, South will rise again!" But the way old southern joke is not altogether a joke any longer. More than 150 years after Robert E Lee's surrender at Appomattox court house, with a man from Arkansas starting his second term in the White House, it looks as if the South won the Civil War after all.

A third of a century ago, when the civil rights movement was transforming the society of the southern states, everyone assumed that the South was a backward, vestigial region. As a young reporter, I interviewed Martin Luther King and other leaders of the peaceful revolution. In places such as Oxford. Mississippi, and Selma, Alabama, I witnessed the ferocious violence with which an angry minority of southern whites resisted change. I watched as George Wallace and other southern leaders shouted. "The South says never!"

At the time, everybody northern whites, southern blacks and even most southern whites, as well as foreign jour-nalists like me - took it for granted that the South would have to become more like the rest of the country. In some ways, of course, it did Legal seg-regation died. Within years, prosperous blacks were sitting down to lunch and diving into swimming pools with whites. Strict taboos disappeared, unlamented, overnight

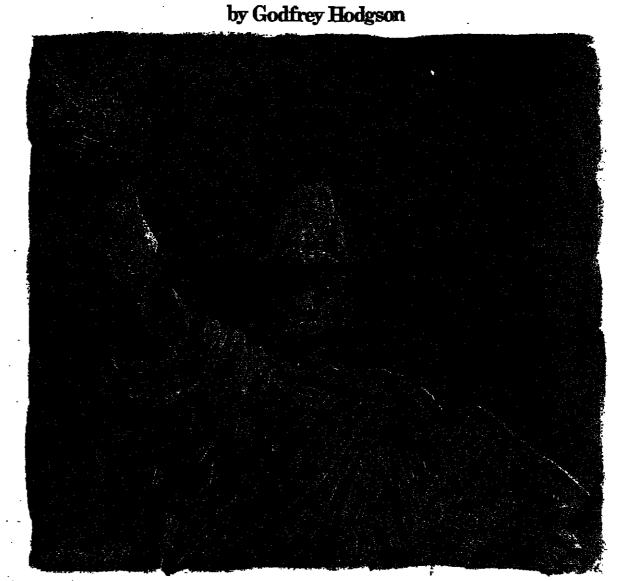
The South got richer. In 1940, President Roosevelt set up a national commission to investigate what he called "the nation's number one economic prob-lem" - the South. Economically, the Deep South was then an under-developed country inside the body of the most developed country on earth. Standards of housing, transport, health and, above all, education were the lowest in the country for whites, never mind blacks

By the late 1960s, the South was becoming the Sunbelt. Gleaming towers rose in the business districts of southern cities. The spreading suburbs of these and other southern cities. with their handsome houses at low prices, their sunshine and their golf courses, offered a standard of living for executives that was the envy of counterparts in New York or Chicago.

In the 1940s, the 11 states of the Confederacy had about a quarter of the people of the US. Now they account for a rough third of the national population, and more if you count the southem migrants who thronged to In other ways, however,

something quite unexpected has happened. The rest of the US has become more like the

The southernisation of American culture is pervasive. Nashville, not New York's Tin



Something quite unexpected has happened – the rest of the United States has become more like the South

Pan Alley, is now the capital of the South is both visible and white southerners could never reality by a conservative the music business. Country of the southern white working class, is everybody's music now.

Professional sports, espe-cially golf, baseball, football and basketball, which through television have a huge influence on popular culture, are largely dominated by southerners, including southern-born blacks such as Michael Jordan, the ultimate basketball superstar. Southern religion is tri-

umphant. The once-mainstream Protestant denomina- Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists are all losing membership. Southern evangelicals, includ-ing the once-despised Pentecostals, are on the rise, and the Southern Baptist Convention, originally the whites-only church of the defeated South, is growing fast in numbers and power. The religious right is outhern in origins and largely run by southerners such as Pat

Robertson and Ralph Reed.

Politically, the domination of

music, once the whining music from Arkansas, the Vice-pres- Lincoln for winning the war, and southern Democrats. Now ident from Tennessee. The Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, comes from Georgia, and most of his most prominent lieutenants are southerners, too. When the job of majority leader of the Senate fell vacant a few months ago, the two candidates for the powerful job were the two senators from Mississippi - Trent Lott (who won) and Thad Cochran.

Twenty-five years ago, Mississippi accents sounded like a broken banjo string in political Washington, Now the President of the United States likes to sneak out of the White House to eat catfish and collard greens in what would once have been a contradiction in terms -a smart southern restaurant. called Sweet Georgia Brown.

The grip of the South over national politics goes back, paradoxically, to the civil rights revolution. Before the 1960s. the South was a one-party region. The great majority of

profound. The President comes forgive the party of Abraham alliance between Republicans freeing the slaves and billeting the Union army in their home towns. So they were "yellow dog" Democrats - they'd vote for a yellow dog, so long as he was a Democrat. Now, from the 1960s on, all

that has changed. It was the

northern Democrats and "the Kennedys" who had violated the southern way of life. (People forgot that President Johnson, who did most for black rights, was a southerner himself). Black southerners began to vote, and they voted Democrat. The middle classes from the azalea-clad suburbs began to vote Republican. Now, 30 years on, the reversal is almost complete. Most white southern males vote Republican and call them-

selves conservatives. The switch has had a dramatic effect on national politics. Until the 1960s, Congress was controlled in theory by a

like him. He gets a bit waffly, but

at other times it gets quite intense and very frightening. I

like being frightened when I'm reading books." Ms Sims is a midwife from Sutton in Surrey.

have called with an agenda. "I'm

not fitting in with your theory, I'm afraid. Perhaps what you're

complaining about is the people

they ask. They may not have

read books such as Popcom by

Ben Elton, or Terry Pratchett. I

loved both of them but I'm

afraid I was asked to give one or

There are a few books - and

Popcom is one - that bridge the

gap between popular and liter-ary worlds. Authors include Kate

Aikinson, Pay Weldon, Mar-

garet Atwood and Beryl Bain-

bridge. It can work the other way

Wild Swans was mentioned

first as a book of the year before

read a book review." And we all

Back at Gatwick, names for

catching on with the public.

two books, not 20."

Carmen Callil believes that I

Rising, that the prevailing bit-ter hostility to Washington and to the federal government ~ hard for foreigners to comprehend - has come about at a time when politics are dom-inated by southerners. But this attitude is hardly surprising when you recall that most southerners were taught at their mother's knee to mistrust the federal government and that Washington was the cupital of the enemy.

Above all, race, once the subterranean subtext of all pol-ities in the South, now lurks in the background of all American politics. In the North today, as in the South before the civil rights upheaval, politicians have learned to speak in an elaborate code of racial allusion. When they denounce "welfare queens" driving around in Cadillacs, everyone knows they mean black women. When people talk about crime, they mean largely black crime. And the South has persuaded much of the rest of the country to adopt its harsh code of capital punishment (largely for blacks) and long

The implications for the rest of the world are not easy to predict. The South, as a region that exported oil and cotton. coal and rice and tobacco, was traditionally internationalist. But it was also "nativist" and deeply suspicious of foreigners. The rise of the South will not make the American govern-ment more patient with the complicated goings-on of inter-national politics - still less with the un-American, and un-white majority of the United Nations.

A funny thing is happening, though. More than four million blacks jeft the bad old South to go north. Now, starting with the most highly qualified, some of them are going home. And I think I can understand why.

Southern culture may be provincial, but - properly packaged - it has its universal appeal, as Coca Cola and country music, southern fried chicken and cowboy fashions have all proved. As writers and story-tellers, preachers and politicians, southerners have a ay with words.

Above all, they have the advantage over their fellow Americans that they have experienced both defeat and guilt. They know what it is to fight bravely and still lose. And they know what it is to be wrong, Now the New South is trying to show it has learned the lesson that the way to win in the long run is not to say "Never!" but to change.

Taking the best out of bestseller

he chair of the Booker panel, Carmen Callil, is telling me her books of the year but I cannot understand a word. When in doubt, bluff, and so I ask for a book's name to be repeated. She bursts out laughing – it's an author. He was on the Booker shortlist! Rohinton Mistry.

Oh, that Rohinton Mistry. I not only blushed but flushed so red that I feared the fire alarm would go off. Nor am I the only one in this predicament; reading the seasonal best-books-of-theyear lists is always a humbling experience, and the odd flash of guilty ignorance is only to be expected. After all, many of these authors are not bookshop names, much less household Why is it that the great, the good and the glamorous never seem to pick a bestseller? Perhaps it is time to share the blushes.

This year, readers of The Sunday Tunes, Telegraph and Independent on Sunday were treated to 200 odd titles put forward by some to literati. Just one of them is among those mentioned by Bookwatch director Peter Harland as being in this year's top sellers. Hardbacks that he does mention include Jilly Cooper's Appassionata, Jeffrey Archer's The Fourth Estate and John Grisham's Runaway Jury In paperback, there is Sophie's World, Rehind the Scenes at the Museum, The Horse Whisperer, Stephen King's Green Mile series and John Grisham's The Rain-



Haven't read anything on the literati's best-book lists? Don't worry neither have they. Ann

Treneman

examines

the bluffs

and blushes

maker. In non-fiction, look for Jack Charlton's Autobiography and something called True Animal Tales by Rolf Harris. Delia may outsell them all; and don't forget to add on something to do with the X-Files to most of those lists. That could end up as series of the year, says Mr Harland.

So why have the literati taken the best out of bestseller? "Many pick books that they are pretty confident no one else has read, including themselves, says Jeffrey Archer, secure in the knowledge he had chosen a Le Carré. "Also, it's quite common for critics to support each other." Sure enough, the lists have a mesmerising roundabout quality in terms of names and name-

dropping. Archer's is not a name on that roundabout and that must rankle a bit. "Someone is reading, because I'm selling more than ever. For my part, I do choose the books that I like," he says. "Some I choose are so-called low-brow, popular fiction and I'm not at all embarrassed to do so." But what are we to make of his other choice? The Dictionary of Art runs to 34 volumes and costs £4,900. Archer is clearly thrilled with it - " For art buffs like myself, if you can't get John Julius Norwich to come and live will syou, this is the next best thing. But low brow it isn't.

The coper seems to have succeed been struck by an attack of the interestings. Her part back on the shelf and starts and any survivors.

When I ask shopper Michael Two hey for his book of the year, he quickly puts The Horse Whiston the shelf and starts and any survivors.

a Hollywood gofer and an opera history primer. She's lucky that those prowling the aisles of one of Britain's busiest bookstores do not take their book choices quite so seriously.

Some five million people are served each year by various John Menzies outlets in the south terminal at Gatwick Airport, and Darrell Blake is the man in charge of making sure they find something to buy. He reads Critics' choice

Ken Follett's Night Over Water. It's a very nice piece of work." Mr Twohey has been at Cambridge getting a doctorate in Chinese politics, and his holiday reading is a Tom Clancy technothriller. He also mentions Proust. Mich ele Roberts is a poet and novelist who has appeared on two "best of" lists. "It's

popular novels now as opposed to literature," he says. "My book of the year would probably be

Last Orders Graham Swift Reading in the Dark Seamus Deane Alias Grace Margaret Atwood Every Man for Himself Beryl Bainbridge The Spirit Level

Sophie's World Jostein Gaarder Behind the Scenes at the Мияеит Kate Atkinson The Horse Whisperer

People's choice

Nick Evans Green Mile series Stephen King The Rainmaker John Grisham

voraciously -so what is his pick of the year? "I would choose 48 by James Herbert. It's his first non-horror tale. How can I describe it and not give it away? Let's just say there is a plague,

books of the year are a diary of apologising. "I'm reading a lot of admits to a passion for mystery.

Seamus Heaney

session of a Ruth Rendell and

can and not to give books written by best friends," she says. choose only a few." I press her for a popular choice: "I read thrillers for fun. The latest Michael Dibden was very good."

important to be as honest as you "The problem is having to Georgina Sims might agree.

"favourite of the year" include Bill Bryson, Wilbur Smith and something titled The Education of a Little Tree by a native American called Forest Carter. A few people say they do not read enough to have a favourite. I wave a "pick of the year" list and ask if this provides any guidance. "I haven't read a book in a while," says one man who is a clinical researcher, She is found at Menzies in pos-"but it's been even longer since I

has the body of a baby. Other little girls Democratic majority but in faces of old women. Their matchstick limbs are covered in open sores." Tanya Barron on visiting Hincest Orphanage Help End The Suffering of Moldova's Her book of the year is The Bad Place by Dean Koontz: "I just

conservative southerners dom-

inate the Republican majority.

while to dispel the dangerous

impression that they are the

party of blacks, minorities and

vomen, the national Democ-

rats have had to move to the

Right, picking southern lead-

ers such as Jimmy Carter, Bill

Clinton and (probably next) Al

southern hegemony are immense, both for America

and for the world. The New

York Times's correspondent in

Atlanta, Peter Applebome,

points out in a new book, Dixie

The consequences of the

Gore to lead them.

LEFT TO DE

"Cristina is six but

Forgotten Orphanage Children At Hincesti Orphanage filthy, starving children lie in rows waiting to die. Nearly 25% did last winter. Around 10,000 children are in

They eat slops and sloep under threadbare blankets. They have bot water, no heating, no medicine and up to now no hope.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romani Orphanage Trust, is working flat-out to get help through to the orphanages, starting with Hincesti.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope

• £25 could buy emergency food supplements for two children to stop them dying from starvation. \$50 could buy a medicine box containing antiseptic. antibiotics, vitamins, pain killers and life-saving drugs to help treat five children. 1 • £250 could buy heaters, blankets, food supplet

मार्थ इ क्लब्रेटडा	pack to help save eight childre	71L	
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Please act now - winter is coming

Lewis makes abrupt exit from Granada

Media Editor

Duncan Lewis, the chief exec-utive of Granada Media Group, has left the company with im-mediate effect, following simmering and at times dramatic disagreements with group chief executive Charles Allen and Gerry Robinson, the chairman.

His departure immediately led to speculation that he would join Cable & Wireless Communications, the new cable television and telephony group which includes Mercury, Mr Lewis's former company, C&W is actively seeking a chief executive for the group. Neither Mr Lewis nor Grana-

da, the hotels-to-television conclomerate, would comment in detail on his departure. In a curt statement, Granada said: "Both Duncan and Granada Group management have recognised an incompatibility of approaches and have therefore agreed to part on an amicable

it is understood, however, that Mr Lewis felt the main group management, headed by Mr Robinson and Mr Allen, were not committed enough to the media side of the business, and that there had been disagreements about acquisition

headquarters on Wednesday, following a meeting with Mr Allen. He has not returned since. He had been on a rolling one-year contract of £250,000 a vear, which is expected to be bought out.

spokesman for Granada said that Mr Lewis's appointment had been "a brave experiment that had gone wrong. Added a company insider: "He didn't know anything about

Granada denied there had been any basic disagreement over strategy. "In a company such as this, there has to be good relations between group and the chief executives of the divisions," the spokesman said.
"For some time, it was clear things were not going well."

Added a senior broadcasting executive within the group: television requires creativity. and the ability to get along with creative people.

It is understood that Granada's senior executives were also concerned about Mr Lewis's management style, which some



'Insufficiently committed to media': Charles Alien

have styled too "showy". As well, he is believed to have spent Mr Lewis left the Granada as much as £500,000 on developing strategy papers for the media group, an amount that was viewed at head office as ex-

> There were suggestions last night that Mr Lewis had wanted to invest aggressively, and had looked at joint venture production in the US, City-TV stations in Britain and other operations in continental Europe. To date, most of Granada's TV investments have been confined to the ITV sector.

Some of his past colleagues have said Mr Lewis was "mercurial" and lacked focus. At Granada, his short tenure was marked by several rows with with Mr Robinson and Mr Allen, who used to run the television business before rising to chief executive.

Mr Allen, the dour Scot who

acts as the details man to Gerry Robinson's more flamboyant strategist, was understood to have been particularly uncomfortable with Mr Lewis. Granada declined to comment on suggestions that the two had a furious row on the day Mr Lewis left the building.

Mr Lewis, 45, moved from BT to Cable & Wireless, where he rose to become chief executive of Mercury, a job he held for only nine months. His departure was said to have followed disagreements with

management.

He had been a surprise choice for the job at Granada, where he oversaw the company's television interests. Gránada owns the Granada and London Weekend Television franchises, 27 per cent of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, and 60 per cent of Granada Sky Broadcasting, a joint satellite TV joint venture with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB.

Mr Lewis' replacement is Steve Morrison, a long-serving Granada executive, who became managing director of Granada Media Group earlier this year when the operations

"Morrison is a far more logical choice for a company like Granada." a media analyst said. At the time of his appointment, Mr Lewis said he would bring his knowledge of telecommunications to the media business, in recognition of greater convergence in the sector between "content" and "carriage".



Heading for pastures new: The industry is betting that Duncan Lewis could be planning a job with Cable & Wireless Communications which is looking for a chief executive...

Lang gives Northern green light

Business Correspondent

lan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday gave a green light to a final wave of takeover bids for the few remaining independent regional electricity companies, by deaiding not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission the £782m hostile bid by US-owned CE Electric for Northern Electric

The decision wrong-footed several City analysts who had predicted an MMC investiga-tion and sent shares in all five remaining independent RECs soaring. Northern's share price jumped by almost 7 per cent, from 602.5p to 642p, just short of CE Electric's raised 650p allcash offer. Shares in the three remain-

ng independent RECs which are not subject to takeover bids also surged ahead, with London Electricity rising 28p to 679.5p, Southern Electric adding 27p to 774.5p and Yorkshire Electricity jumping by 13.5p to 756p. The decision also makes gov-

ernment approval of the agreed £1.3bn takeover bid by US utility Dominion Resources for East Midlands Electricity almost certain. Sources said it would be inconceivable that Mr Lang would refer the Dominion bid to the MMC after having given the go-ahead for the bid for Northern. East Midland's shares were up 30p to 656.5p, compared with Dominion's cash offer of 670p.

Some leading City investors had also expected an MMC re-ferral on the basis of recent surprise decisions by Mr Lang, including his ruling blocking bids for South West Water by rival water companies.

There was speculation last night that other US utilities early in the new year, with the industry facing /a complete carve-up before the general election. One analyst suggested Entergy, the New Orleans utility, could renew exploratory discussions with London Elec-

Yorkshire Electricity last night denied it had received any bid approaches. A spokesman said: "We are not in any talks with anybody. We've been asked the same question for the past 18 months and there's always

been the same answer." Mr Lang's announcement said the DTI had been given specific assurances by CE Electric that it would maintain Northern's "financial and management resources", reflecting concerns expressed by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator. CalEnergy,

the US power generator which is CE Electric's biggest shareholders, has debts of around \$2bn (£1.2bn) and has been froquently quizzed about its debt rating.
Northern's chances of fend-

ing off the bid were helped yes-terday as another leading City investor came out in support of the company's existing man-agement, led by chairman Devid Morris. Foreign & Colonial which holds 1.5 per cent of Northern shares, gave the board its backing. David Manning, and F&C director, explaine "We believe that the current be for Northern falls well short of a fair value for the company. Northern has delivered on all its promises to date and we feel we should support them in reject-

ng the final offer."
The Prudential, Northern's biggest shareholder, also pledged to continue supporting the existing management, having raised its stake in the com-

court to

lalifax raises

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pany slightly this week to 11.35 per cent. A spokesman explained: "Our decision was based on our perception of value in the company and this was clearly unaffected by the an-

Northern also claimed that would make bids for RECs another big, but unnamed inyestor with more than 2 per cent of the company was throwing its weight behind management. David Sokol, chief executive

of CalEnergy, is thought to be meeting the Prudential on Monday in a final lobbying campaign before the Friday 20 December deadline. Mr Sokol insisted his offer remained fair, despite the rise in Northern's share price: "If our offer fails then Northern's shares will fore we launched the bid."

One obstacle could be Northem's vocal band of small shareholders which controls a total of some 21 per cent of the com3

Chris Foote Wood from the Northern Small Shareholders Association said he would fight to the bitter end to keep Northern independent.

Rolls 'confident' of disposing of Parsons plant

Chris Godsmark

Rolls-Royce yesterday insisted it remained confident of selling its Parsons steam turbine business despite announcing up to 800 redundancies at the plant. In what the company de-

scribed as a "precautionary statement", it said around 400 jobs would go in late January or early February as work at the factory on North Tyneside dries up. A further 400 staff could be companies interested in buying Unions said Parsons' 1,500

remaining employees were shocked by the news, which had come after the management had been giving the workforce more optimistic signals about the continuing discussions with outside bidders.

Barney McGill, the works representative for the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said: "The workers here were stunned by the announcement. In the runup to Christmas this is a severe blow for those involved and the scale of the redundancies were definitely unexpected. Howevsince the original announcement by Rolls-Royce back in

optimistic that the company can be sold than a few weeks ago."

Rolls had given all the staff protective redundancy notices early last month to comply with employment law which stipulates that workers must be given 90 days' notice before losing their jobs.

Since the decision to sell or close Parsons the plant has not been bidding for new orders. One reason for the job cuts is that work has been coming to laid off if negotiations with a close on one of the last big contracts, to make turbines for all or part of the operation are not swiftly concluded.

a 110 megawatt gas-fired powner station under construction in Godavari in India.

It also emerged that a much bigger Indian contract, to build a huge coal-fired station at Balagarh, had fallen through Rolls said it had withdrawn from hidding for the work after deciding to leave the beavy power generation business.

Last night the company insisted it remained "fairly con-fident" that it could sell Parsons. Rolls-Royce has made provisions of £250m for the possible closure of the business, along with a boiler plant at Rolls-Royce International Combustion in Derby which er. we've come a long way employs 900. But experts have cast doubt on the chances of selling Parsons in an industry July and we are probably more which has huge overcapacity.

£1m payout for Wickes directors

Triplex Lloyd castigates Cook's salary

do-it-yourself retailer whose former bosses are being investigated for fraud, have been awarded salary and options package valued at more than £1m each.

Wickes has also spent more than £10m in fees to professional advisors in the last six months since discovering past profits linked to supplier rebates had been overstated by £51m. The details are contained in

a document sent yesterday to Wickes' shareholders urging them to accept a deeply discounted £53.2m rescue rights issue or risk the crisis-hit company going into receivership. Of particular interest are provisions for "golden parachute" payments if Wickes loses its in-

Triplex Lloyd, the Midlands-

based engineer bidding £58m

for steel castings group William Cook, yesterday launched a

withering personal attack on Andrew Cook, its controversial

chairman and chief executive.

In a letter to Cook's share-holders, Triplex seized on Mr

Cook's five-year rolling contract,

which has seen him earn more

than £500,000, or up to 11 per

cent of William Cook's profits,

in each of the last four years.

Patrick Tooher

a sitting duck for a £200m takeover.

Bill Grimsey, who was appointed chief executive last month, stands to earn a bonus of £230,000 if Wickes is taken over by August 1997 or his employment is terminated within a year of such an event. Bill-Hoskins. Wickes' finance director, will get £200,000 under a similar arrangement.

The document also shows that Mr Grimsey received a special payment of £115,000 "in recognition of the exceptional services he has provided to the group since July 1996". Mr Hoskins got £100,000 for his recent efforts.

"Andrew Cook's remunera-

tion package has performed

much better than your compa-

ny's share price," said Graham

Lockyer, Triplex's chief execu-

tive. "Poor corporate gover-

nance at William Cook is so

extreme that it is not an esoteric

debate. It is a monetary issue

which has had, and without

Triplex Lloyd's offer will con-

tinue to have, an adverse impact

Cook's service contract, which

entitles him to a Bentley Turbo

Triplex highlighted Mr

on shareholder value."

The new chief executive and discovery of the serious acwalued at £690,000, while Mr

Wickes said the options worth three times his annual salary of £190,000.

The exercise price of both sets of options is performance-related, but it could be set at the shares' closing price on the day before a bid is made for Wickes. Trading in Wickes' shares was

suspended at 69p in June after the accounting scam came to light, forcing the resignation of £1m-a-year chairman Henry eetbaum. Seven other directors have since left.

Dealings in the company's shares will resume on 7 January if shareholders approve a onefor-one rights issue, which has been fully underwritten by SBC Warburg, at the equivalent of 15p Mr Grimsey is on a one-year. a share, a £100m capital

both of which can be replaced

Mr Cook is also the only di-

rector employed by William Cook and is entitled to retire on

a full pension at the age of 55.

William Cook has no finance

director on its board. The other

four directors are all engaged as

of the two non-executive di-

rectors, one is 71 and the oth-

er, aged 83, has sat on Cook's March 1997.

self-employed consultants.

dependence. Analysts say Wick-rolling contract paying £230,000 reduction and new banking

Wickes said the rights issue inance director of Wickes, the counting irregularities that it is Hoskins is also entitled to share will cost it £3.5m in expenses, including a standard underwriting commission of 2 per cent equal to £1.35m. It has also paid £6.6m in fees

to lawyers, accountants and auditors. Some £5m will be split between City law firm Linklaters & Paines and accountancy firm Price Waterhouse, who led an internal inquiry into Wickes' accounts. Last month the Metropolitan

Police and Serious Fraud Office began a formal investigation into unnamed former Wickes' directors. Wickes does not expect the inquiry to result in any liability for the group.

Wickes said the total pay bill for directors in the year to

who recently described his

sharpen up his corporate gov-

plans to split the role of chair-man and chief executive and to

appoint at least one new non-

executive director if the Triplex

Lloyd bid lapses.
William Cook is expected

cast of a "substantial improve-

ment" in profits for the year to

Banks Target cheaper euro payment system

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

A group of international banks announced plans yesterday for a payments system in the new euros that will provide a cutprice alternative to the contro-

versial Target clearing system. Target has been at the centre of a blazing row during the preparations for monetary union, because France and Germany want the system to dis-criminate against banks from countries that stay out of the sin-

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, has been campaigning for better treat-ment for British banks that use larget if the UK does stay out of EMU. But he made clear in September that if the obstacles to using Target to process payments between banks are too great there will be alternatives available.

The ECU Banking Association, which represents 49 of the world's largest banks including Deutsche Bank and Union Bank of Switzerland, said it had decided at a meeting in Luxembourg, chaired by Ashley Dowson of Barclays Bank, to proceed with what it called a truly European cross-border payment system for EMU".

The cost will be less than one euro per payment compared with five to seven euros which the EBA claimed would be the

cost for Target. A report prepared for the Luxembourg neeting said the EBA system should be capable of reaching a market share of 30 per cent. half as much again as Target.

A third system in which banks

would use correspondent banks

in other countries to process their payments was expected to reach a similar market share to Target of 20 per cent.
The EBA claimed its new system, which will be developed from an existing computerised

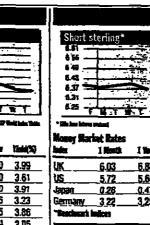
clearing system for ecus, would be complementary to Target. It could become the main payment system for cross-border commercial and financial payments in Euros, while Target was designed for monetary policy transactions and very

high value or urgent wholesale payments. The difference between the two systems, and the main rea-son the EBA's is cheaper, is that Target settles transactions instantly, eliminating the risk that a failure of one bank could have a knock-on effect on others.

The EBA system makes transfers of money within one day, so there could be tremendons disruption if a bank fails during the hours a transaction is waiting to be completed within the system. The Bank of England's greatest concern in the row over Target is that it will discourage commercial banks from using the safest system.

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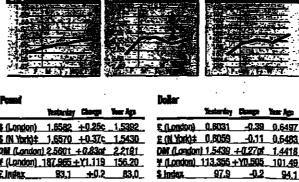
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and a Land Rover Discovery, board for 41 years. Mr Cook,

every two years by a new car of the same model. £1.5m "golden parachute" as a "pittance", has promised to

Mr Lockyer pointed out that next week to quantify its fore-

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Don't hold your breath over Guinness report

o finally, finally, after all these years, the Department of Trade and Industry is to publish its report on the Guinner. is to publish its report on the Guinness affair. It might actually do so as early as next week, although the DTI was yesterday casting doubt on whether it could be ready quite so soon. The spark for this belated little act of public service is next Tuesday's ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on whether Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was unfairly tried over the Guinness shares fraud.

Whatever the judges have to say on the matter, the DTI takes the view that it is now free to publish the results of its 10-year investigation of how Guinness illegally won control of Distillers in the mid-1980s. Conspiracy theorists will believe the timing is dictated by the Government's desire to deflect attention from what is all too likely to be another slap in the face for British justice from the European courts. Europe might wish to say, or at least imply, that Mr Saunders and others didn't get a fair trial, but this report will claim in the strongest possible language that he is as guilty as sin. The Serious Fraud Office will fight tooth and nail to uphold the Guinness convictions, whatever the European

I've followed the various twists and turns in the Guinness affair pretty closely over the years, but unfortunately I haven't yet been able to get my hands on a copy of the final er unpublished draft it is possible to surmise

roughly what's in it. Don't hold your breath. Ten years after the event and with numerous criminal and civil trials to sift the evidence, there isn't a great deal the inspectors can say which is genuinely new about this affair. The Guinness scandal has passed into history and that's what the report is - a history book. There are no significant changes in the law, corporate governance or City practice the inspectors can recommend, for the lessons have been largely learnt and generally acted upon, in so far as they ever

It is, of course, the case that the inspectors can still pass judgement on individuals and organisations still alive and kicking - and they will - but it isn't going to surprise anyone to learn that Mr Saunders is a crook or that Morgan Grenfell, his City advisers at the time, disregarded accepted rules and

From what I hear about this report, however, the inspectors have missed an opportunity. In their analysis, evidence and judgement, they mirror very closely the prosecution case aired in the various criminal proceedings. Broadly, this attempts to pin blame for the scandal on a small group of key people and to varying degrees on the or-ganisations they represented.

The central allegation is that led by Mr knew what was going on or even that they saunders they conspired one with another should have been officiously running around Saunders they conspired one with another illegally to support the Guinness share price and that this was kept secret not only from the markets (for the trick would not have worked if everyone had known the share price was being artificially supported), but also everybody else at Guinness and its professional advisers. Ergo these are the culpable ones and everyone else - lawyers, accountants, City advisers and the like - is in the clear. Indeed the case goes rather further

than that, for to work properly - as it plain-ly did in the first Guinness trial - it needs you to believe that no one outside this inner core had any conception of what was going on. Moreover, they would have been profoundly shocked and tried to stop it had they known

I've never believed this to be the full picture. It is largely true but the real story is more complicated - that the Guinness affair took place against a well established backdrop of cavalier practice and behaviour that encouraged the main protagonists into believing that if this was not quite the accepted way of doing things it was common enough at least to be tolerated. In some City firms practice of this sort was endemic, going unchecked either by internal controls or out-

side regulators.

the place saying there's something wrong here and we are going to find out about it. No one ever starts in these situations from the point of view that their client is a crook nor is it their job to act as watchdogs over the activities of others.

All the same, it seems astonishing that nobody suspected what was going on. At the very least they should have been more vigorous in their approach. In the cut and thrust of a contested takeover an anything goes culture rapidly takes hold. It is reasonable to expect established practitioners in these matters to keep things in check. Even after DTI inspectors were sent into Guinness the at-titude among some remained one of relaxed complascency right up to the moment when the full enormity of the scandal emerged. Then everyone ran for cover.

The Ernest Saunders version of events, that all these professionals knew what was going on and conspired to pin the whole saga on him, is absurd. But with so many highly paid, top-drawer names around the table to advise and guide him, it is hard to understand how this could have been allowed to happen, even now, ten years after the event. There won't be much of this in the DTI report, however. The possibility that the whole thing might have been avoided had I'm not saying here that any of the pro-fessionals caught up in the Guinness affair a more vigorous and professional approach be running his own show.

been adopted is simply not addressed. This is a shame for it might have led to a more rounded and illuminating report. The inspectors were in a position to tackle the question of whether the night watchman was asleep on the job. They appear to have de-

Nobody should be too surprised by the spectacle of Duncan Lewis flouncing out of his Granada TV job so soon after joining. Incompatability seems to be his middle name. He did much the same thing when he was at Cable & Wireless's Mercury Communications subsidiary. He lasted barely more than a year there too. Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen are hard task masters, applying a vigorous regime of management control and accountability throughout the Granada empire. In never seemed very likely that they would be able to work happily with Mr Lewis.

He'll claim that he was never allowed the money or flexibility to do what he wanted with Granada's television interests. They'll claim he couldn't run a That's what happens when you get a difference of approach in business. The real problem, I suspect, is that Mr Lewis wants to be his own boss. He wasn't, either at Mercury or Granada. Mr Lewis is the type of executive who needs to

Lopez stole GM secrets, court told

Imre Karacs Bonn

The former head of purchasing at General Motors, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, systernatically stole trade secrets from the company as part of a premeditated act hatched several months before he jumped

osecutors claimed yesterday. The allegations came as Mr Lopez was formally indicted on charges of industrial espionage by the prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, near Frankfurt.

Charged alongside Mr Lopez were three other former GM exccutives who defected to VW with him three-and-a-half years the prosecutors allege. ago - Jose Manuel Gutierrez Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Pi-

However, the prosecutors said that their investigation had found no evidence that VW's chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, or anyone else from the German car maker was involved in the alleged espionage. Gerhard Andres, the chief public prosecutor, said more serious charges of fraud were not filed because no measurable amount of financial damage to GM could be determined.

But referring to Mr Lopez whand the other indicted execu-tives, he said: "The accused planned to acquire business documents from the research,

Mr Lopez, head of purchasing for GM's European subsidiary Opel had revolutionised hip for Volkswagen, German the car maker's relationship with suppliers, preparing the ground for cheaper produc-

At VW headquarters in

set themselves up in offices enveloped in a bubble of hi-tech security. Their mission was to develop the concept for an assembly plant codenamed "B" in

planning, production, and purchasing departments with a view toward their planned joint move to VW." This had been premeditated and planned months ahead.

He was first approached by Mr Piech in November 1992.

In March 1993 Mr Lopez ining, whereupon he was offered a promotion, which he gratefully accepted. A few days later, however, Mr Piech trumped the counter-offer, and Mr Lopez this time handed GM his final letter of resignation and took the first plane to Germany.

Wolfsburg, the GM defectors the Spanish Basque country.

The factory would be the



Following their meeting, Mr Eye of the storm: German prosecutors Thomas Seifert (left) and Gerhard Andres during their announcement in Darmstadt Lopez and three of his closest yesterday of a criminal indictment charging the former VW executive José Ignacio Lopez and three associates with colleagues began rifling through conspiracy to steal trade secrets when they defected from General Motors in 1993 Photograph: Heribert Proepper/AP GM's confidential documents,

ciples combined cars would be slottled together from "mod-ules", rather than smaller com! ponents as before, and fitted on the assembly line largely by workers employed by outside contractors at cheaper rates

Only one such factory existed elsewhere in the world, and even then only in blueprint form: the hush-hush "Plant X" designed by GM and also destined for northern Spain. Those are the very plans that Mr

Lopez is said to have stolen. In addition to these plans the Darmstadt prosecutors claim that the four accused also pinched suppliers' price lists, cost information on virtually the embodiment of all Lopez prinentire GM-Opel range in Eu-

rope, and documents outlining GM's cost-cutting strategy for

If convicted, Mr Lopez could face a five-year prison term, though as a first offender he would probably escape with a hefty fine.

Lawyers acting for Mr Lopez challenged the prosecutors' findings, saying they had mistaken documents that GM had previously made public for company secrets and that many of their witnesses were not credible. Jurgen Taschke and Eber-hard Wahle, representing Mr Lopez, said the charges would not stand up in court and they would seek to have them dis-

Key dates in the Lopez affair

1980 - 9 Lopez Joins GM Spain Expez appointed Head of Purchasing at Opel. Lopez has first meeting with Ferdinand Piech, chairman of W Lopez joins VW as Head of Purchasing, then outs to

become president of GM North America, which he then quits after a few days to rejoin VW Opel starts legal action against Lopez for industrial

GM files civil suit in America against VW for criminal VW sues GM for defamation US judge in Detroit rules GM can pursue clalm

for damages Lopez resigns from VW, but is rehired immediately as a consultant Lopez and three other former executives formally

indicted by German prosecutors

Swiss operator picks BT as partner

British Telecom yesterday further strengthened its network of European alliances after it was selected as one of the international partners for Switerland's second licenced telecoms operator Newtelco. BT and Tele Danmark will acquire a significant minority stake in Newtelco, which was set up earlier this year by Swiss Federal Railways. Union Bank of Switerland and Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, the country's largest retailer.

Foster's settles forex action

Foster's Brewing Group of Australia has agreed to settle its civil action over alleged fraudulent foreign exchange deals against John Elliott, the former chief executive, and others. The others that are covered by the settlement are former executives Peter Scanlon, Ken Biggins and Ken Jarrett, the Bank of New Zealand and auditor Price Waterhouse. "The terms of the settlement ... remain confidential," said Foster's, which had sued Messrs Ellion, Scanlon and Biggins in a bid to recover A\$66.5m (£32m) allegedly lost in fraudulent foreign exchange transactions in 1988.

Toad motors towards full listing

Toad, the car gadgets group founded by Chris Evans, the biotechnology tycoon, is tapping the market for £7.1m in a five-for-nine open offer at 80p, and moving to a full listing. The company, currently quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said it wanted to spend £1.35m opening another five or six depots to add to the existing 17. Interim losses deepened from £801,000 to £2.46m, but Toad is forecasting profits in the year to March 1998.

Burnfield to pay £24m for Ling

Burnfield has reached agreement to acquire Ling Dynamic Systems Limited for £24m. Ling designs and makes vibration testing equipment used by the aerospace, electronics and automotive industries. The acquisition will be financed mainly by a £20.3m, seven-for-10 rights issue at 90p per share. Ling made pre-tax profits of £2.3m in the year ended 31 July. Burnfield forecasts operating profit for the year ending 31 December will be not less than £3.5m.

John Lewis sales ahead 13 per cent

John Lewis Partnership said total sales for the 19 weeks to 7 December were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Sales in John Lewis department stores were 129 per cent ahead while sales in Waitrose supermarkets showed a 11 per cent increase.

Ladbroke solves Hilton dispute

Ladbroke has reached an out-of-court settlement in a rent review dispute with the landlord of the Paris Hilton. The parties have been in litigation over the level of rent payable on the hotel since 1992. Under the settlement the annual charge for 1996 and each year to 2008 will be Fr47m (£5.5m), indexed annually for inflation. Separately, Ladbroke said it has sold the 400-room Washington Vista Hotel in Washington DC for \$47m (£28m), to Interstate Hotels.

Asda launches unisex perfume

Asda claimed it was the first supermarket to enter the premium perfume market yesterday when it launched its first fragrance, George 1. The unisex scent is priced at £9.99, in a bid to under-cut rivals such as Calvin Kline's CK.

Bunzl in talks to buy Filtrona

Bunzl is in discussions regarding the possible cash purchase of the bonded fibres business of American Filtrona, which is listed on Nasdaq. The bonded fibres business, which had sales of \$62.9m

Halifax raises mortgage rate

Banking Correspondent

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender in the UK, finally raised its standard variable mortgage rate to 7.25 per cent vesterday, two weeks afier its rivals acted on the quarter percentage point rise in base rates announced in October.

The move will allow the society to raise its savings rates in the new year when competition to wiso savers is expected to hot up when several leading building societies plan to convert to unleashing a £17bn

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Alliance & Leicester was the first of the big societies to increase mortgage rates earlier this month. But Halifax decided to hold off until this week's monthly meeting between the Chan-cellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England before instigating its first

rate rise since February 1995. The move comes amid growing evidence that the housing market is staging a recovery and shows the need to increase the rates on offer to savers, who have lost out in the race among building societies and banks to win mortgage business.

the interests of our borrowers and savers whilst continuing to remain competitive in the market. The recovery in the housing market continues and over the last two years borrowers have benefited from low interest rates and low mortgage payments," said Mike Black-

burn, chief executive of Halifax. large lenders.

Interest Rates

The rate rise by Halifax al-lowed Nationwide, the largest remaining building society, to yesterday increase its standard variable mortgage rates by a quarter of a point to 6.99 per cent – which is still a quarter of a point below that offered by the

Oxford Biomedia's début flops They ended slightly up at 47.5p. Sentiment took a dive earlier brokers Teather & Greenwood

Magnus Grimond

Stock market jitters hammered another two new issues yesterday when Oxford Biomedica shares opened at less than half their placing price and it emerged that Fountain Forestry was cutting by 50 per cent the amount being raised from its own Alternative Investment Market flotation.

Oxford, a biotechnology group backed by Oxford University, saw its shares start dealings on AIM at just 42.5p yesterday morning, some 52 per cent below the 88p at which the shares were priced in October.

this week when it was revealed that the two main underwriters, Stockton Trading, a Bahamianregistered company, and Kaj Kjellquist, a private Swedish investor, had withdrawn their combined £5m commitment to underwrite the £6.15m then being raised. The move forced the company to delay first dealings until yesterday and reduce the amount being raised to £5m, which Oxford said was its minimum working capital re-quirement, although it had originally sought up to £11m.

the Financial Educate

against the underwriters, whose actions were the main cause of the "appalling" opening price.
The flop is the latest in a list

of disappointing biotechnology flotations. Earlier this year, Cambrio abandoned plans to float, and Xenova has been forced to cut the amount being raised by £2.4m to £22.6m. The news came as Fountain

said the company was reserving

its right to take legal action

Forestry, which manages 80,000 bectares of forest and clears leaves from railway lines, said its placing would raise £2.25m. half the original target of £4.5m. Percy Lomax of sponsoring

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Jan		130/36	96/52		B5/74	40/102	
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Mar		171/75	137/92		109/10	81/137	
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Utilities burn bright in gloom of another grey Friday

FTSE 100 3972.4 _-18.3 4358.3 -21.2 1973.9 -9.2 SEAQ VOLUME 624.6m shares, 31,246 bargains

Share spotlight

to counter another grey Friday mood of confusion and

Such is the nervous state of the stock market following US banking chief Alan Greenspan's cautionary comments that a sharp overnight fall in New York sent shares spinning

lined the fragility of the marlargely ignoring Wall Street's seemingly relentless progress, shares are now tossing and turning at the slightest sign of a transatlantic correction.

With big profits to be taken on both sides of the Atlantic market-makers are nervous that a selling rush could sud-denly materialise. And, con-

Utilities made a valiant attempt the 13th, market-makers could not resist the temptation to follow New York's example when

trading started yesterday. At one time Footsie was down 56.8 points and all the old worries of corrections and crashes were again uppermost in many minds. But, not for the first time, it was all a big mistake. The Dow Jones Average actually moved ahead and in the scramble to acknowledge the feared reckoning had once again been postponed Footsie had cut its decline to 18.3

points to 3,972.4 by the close. Utilities rose above such mundane influences as feared corrections, helped by the not unexpected Whitehall clear-ance of the hostile CE Electric of the US bid for Northern Electricity. Northern, which



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

talks with BT, up 3.5p to 390.5p. The telephone giant is, with a Danish group, planning a move into Switzerland.

itself back in the takeover

arena as a trade of 250,000

shares which went through at

652p resurrected takeover

speculation. The deal, above

the then market price, clearly

put the market on edge and in a late flurry the shares jumped

Commercial Union found

stock market reporter of the year on the shares following its

gained 30p to 656.5p on the be-lief its agreed offer from the US Dominion Resources will also be given a rare Whitehall The remaining "unat-tached" electricities also

glowed with London, up 28p at 679.5p, Southern 27p to 774.5p and Yorkshire 13.5p to 756p. Some of the waters were drawn into the speculation of further utility bids. Anglian rose 9p to 556.5p and United Utilities 4p to 575.5p. South West Water improved 12p to

builders with Barratt Developments off 5.5p to 245p.

Taylor Nelson, the market

research group, provided the Friday profit-warning hit. The shares fell 8.25p to 42p after the company said profits would

me company said profits would not be up to expectations.

Matthew Clark, the cider group removed from the supporting FTSE 250 index, ended 10.5p down at 260p, a new low.

RJB Mining continued to talk from its saves mauling rally from its savage mauling after the BZW downgrading, adding 27p to 425p
Oxford Biomedica's delayed

début was a withering disaster; against an 88p placing the shares opened at 42.5p, closing at 47.5p. Yeoman, a hi-tech group held back to accommodate late applications fared better but even so failed to would offer terms below the market price.
Obscure AND International

Publishers achieved the day's biggest gain, up 59 per cent to 185p. A Dutch electronic pub-lisher, it arrived on AIM in August at 70p. Oxford Uni-versity Press is a substantial shareholder, with around 25 per cent. The shares are a narrow market and there appeared to

be only one modest trade. Lanica Trust, with mail order ambitions, was another high flyer, up 40p to 905p. The shares have climbed from 56p since August.
Zotefoams, the chemical

group, held at 212.5p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett said the shares were undervalued. Analyst Nicola Kerslake trimmed her profits forecast by 5 per cent to £6.7m because of ster-

Tex, the engineering and plastic group, stretched to another peak, up 2.5p to 122.5p, as profit expectations were lifted. On Wednesday the company announced a £6m contract to supply engineering plant to the Philippines. Other developments are likely. The group achieved interim profits of £650,000 and a close follower of the company, Nick Brock of stockbroker Walker Crips Weddle Beck, believes profits for the year to March will emerge at more than £1.4m. The shares were down to 19p when Tex was in the red in the early 1990's.

Gomarional moral are grante grante

Wellington Market Co; started in 1,244 and claiming to be Britain's oldest company, is hoping to raise £1m through an open offer and

21p to 665p.

A continental strike remains remains opposed to the £665m offer, jumped 39.5p to 642p compared with the CE offer of 650p.

East Midlands Electricity sequently, they are quick to the favoured option with the even hold its 175p placing, ending at 170.5p.
Chibpartners, a golf group, ling's strength and higher Orange, the mobile phone group, added another 25p to German Allianz group never far from the reckoning. mark down prices at the merpreference conversion. The spending on marketing. Next two class of shares are 80p on year's prediction is £8m. The shares were 339p in March. 181p as Barclays de Zoete Wedd hung a 240p target price More building society rate fell 4p to 7.5p after repeating increases eroded some of the that any of the circling bidders No doubt noting the alleged unlucky implications of Friday Ofex; the rights price is 55p. Share Price Data Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's div The independent index Canon B100 fax machine, so small it can fit | Section | Sect anywhere



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION: Argentina forwards set to provide England's keen young talent with another harsh lesson

Gomarsall taking nothing for granted

England's new scrum-half must adjust to international rugby extremely quickly. If he does not he knows that he will be replaced. Chris Hewett spoke to him

'It's wonderful

to play in

front of such

a fantastic

ball-winning

front five'

wo England appearances, two debut tries and two international coaches on his back: for Andy Gomarsall, life is a double-edged sword, full of sudden contradictions and wift reversals of fortune. His career at the top level may be in its infancy, but he has already experienced the proverbial slings and arrows.

It is just as well, then, that England's new scrum-half is blessed with precisely the sort of psychological profile that enables him to ride the roller-coaster of Test rugby without freezing on the uphill pulls or feeling queasy on the steep descents. Take the ing more than I anticipated. I boundless commitment of a suspected beforehand that they bewi Morris, the resilience of a Richard Hill tend to focus

and the sheer *joie de vivr*e of a Rupert Moon and you have something ap-proaching the engagingly spiryoung

His first taste of Test action (_as pure nectar: Gomarsall

22 years old and as keen as you like, gave the Italian back row such unmitigated hell at Twickenham last month that his brace of tries was scant reward for a display of prodigious energy. Then came the collision with the New Zealand Barbarians a fortnight ago. Different kettle of fish, dif-

Gomarsall took a fair degree of stick for his curate's egg effort against Justin Marshall, the brilliant Canterbury halfback whose state-of-the-art performances in the No 9 shirt had been central to New Zealand's tumultuous triumph in South Africa back in the summer. John Hart, the All Black coach,

ANDREW BALDOCK

Kevin Bowring, the Welsh

coach, is anxious for a more

physical approach from his for-

wards, and he believes the new

caps from Pontypridd, Dale

McIntosh and Mark Rowley.

can ruffle South Africa by show-

it will take an immense team

effort at Cardiff Arms Park to-

morrow if Wales are to end their

They may succeed in that but

ing them no respect.

and when Jack Rowell, his Eng-lish counterpart, openly admitted this week that Kyran Bracken had been close to a recall for this afternoon's final pre-Christmas outing against Argentina, a lesser competitor might easily have disappeared into his shell.

Not Gomarsall. "I certainly don't think I played well against the New Zealanders, but I don't think I'd played that badly either," he said, full of beans after another training session at Twickenham. "That was one tough game against an out-

> up to it - and subsequent events bore me out. They were course, it took "It was al-

ways going to be difficult to emulate what happened against Italy. The expectations were high and while I have no problems with that - I have big expectations of myself - every time I touch the ball against the New Zealanders their back row lets learned a heck of a lot in the space of that 80 minutes.

If Gomarsall, a gifted hockey player, is in the habit of putting his representative shirts on the walls, he will soon need a house the size of an art gallery. He now has a compre-hensive, not to say priceless collection, having turned out for the London Division and the Barbarians as well as England

Pontypridd players never

show respect for the opposition

and always go on the field to

give the other side a torrid

time." Bowring said.

tralia a fortnight ago.



in 1992), England Students, the Under-21s, the Emerging Players and England A before landing that treasured first cap. When Rowell talks about the systematic identification and development of talent, one of his favourite conversational hobby horses, he must be tempted to hold up his new

scrum-half as a model. Ten years ago, five even, that sort of background would have guaranteed Gomarsall a long run in the national side, but England's increasingly methodical approach to squadbuilding means that nothing can be taken for granted any longer. Bracken, revitalised

need no second invitation to rebuild his own Test career and with Matt Dawson, Austin Healey and the eve-catching Gloucester youngster Scott Benton in the pursuing pack, a single moment's complacency might easily be one too many. l've got to perform, haven't

1?" admitted Gomarsall. "Every time, without fail. If I don't, there are plenty of scrum-halves out there who will. It's a position of strength for England at the moment and unless you can handle competition and thrive on it, use it positively to force the best from yourself, you'll get left behind." Happily, Gomarsall's club en- are a dream to work with." vironment keeps him on the

Sheasby, in the current England starting line-up and his good friend and half-back partner Alex King on the beach, the peer pressure is entirely supportive.

"That Wasps camaraderie helps a great deal. We train together at the club and keep each other in the right frame of mind. We're pretty close - if any of us has a problem, it's a problem shared - but then, it's a pleasure to be involved in the England set-up, too. For a scrum-half, it's wonderful to play behind such a fantastic ball-winning front five... The England tight forwards

in action at close quarters this afternoon. It is an article of faith with Puma packs that set-piece

ball is sacrosanct and the scrum-

half expects to make an early acquaintance with a substantial wall of blue and white shirts. "I've never played against an Argentinian side at any level but I know what they're about. They love the physical side of the game, the rough and tumble, and that means a particular set of problems for an opposing scrumhalf. It suits me fine, though, because I relish that sort of contest." Despite his crash

course at the All Black school of Talking of tight forwards. Go-marsall is more than prepared to thought Gomarsall had been Schools 18 Group (who he led since his move from Bristol to straight and narrow. With two of marsall is perfectly aware that he collect another bruise or three in "pretty well exposed out there" to a first Grand Slam in 11 years Saracens last summer, would his fellow Wasps, loose forwards will see another very decent unit pursuit of victory this afternoon. **Bowring wants to adopt Pontypridd approach**

Reed ready for Italian challenge

Scotland do not intend becom tempt to break into the Five Nations' Championship. Although beaten 54-21 by England three weeks ago, the Italians troubled Wales and Australia earlier this season and they see encounter with Ireland in Dublin as major opportunities to achieve a final breakthrough into Europe's top rugby club. Scottish fans worried by the

prospect of defeat will not be encouraged by the low-key approach of their coach. Richie Dixon, to the game. "I think there will be two reasonably matched sides out there," he said. And, as with all internationals, it will be decided by whoever wants to win the most. Italy are here to win as part of their bid to get into the Five Nations, and it is up to us to set the challenge for them."

In addition to avoiding embarrassment, there will be no shortage of incentive for several of the Scottish players hoping to cement their international places for the opening Five Nations encounter, against Wales on 18 January. By way of contrast there will be the 23year-old Northampton prop Matt Stewart making his debut, while the veteran centre Scott Hastings, 11 years Stewart's senior, returns for his 63rd cap.

There is also a new beginning for the former Lions lock Andy Reed, who collected the last of his 10 Scottish caps against South Africa in November 1994. The 6ft

7in Cornishman, who switched

from Bath to Wasps this season, will hope to follow in the footsters of his club-mate Chris Sheashy. who burst on to the internationing the fall guys in Italy's at- al scene for England after a

close-season move to Wasps. Reed, 27, has recovered from a career-threatening back problem that kept him out of the game for 14 months. "There was a time when I thought I would not play today's game with the Scots at at any level again, never mind at Murrayfield and the 4 January international level," he said. "But, once I started again, I wanted to play at the highest standard. There is still plenty of room for improvement, but I will

give it my best shot." Dixon, unhappy with the forwards' display in the 29-19 defeat by Australia last month. dropped Doddie Weir to bring Reed in, and he realises the spotlight will be on him today. For the first time, I'm feeling some pressure but I like to think I can thrive on it," Reed said. "Italy are by no means mugs.

Scotland, who will be led for the second time by Gregor Towns and who will be playing inside centre for the first time at international level, will be especially wary of Alessandro Troncon, Italy's livewire scrum-half and their threequarter Paolo Vaccari, who both scored tries for Italy against England. SCOTLAND: R Shepherd (Melcos Hanco), S Hastings (Wassonors)

Jones angry at four-week ban

Mark Jones, Ebbw Vale's for- Scotland cruised to their mer rugby league forward, has received a four-week suspension after being sent off for punching. The club's officials are planning an appeal as Jones will burgh Academicals wing Dunmiss important league games ny Bull and the West of against Dunvant, Newbridge and Bridgend.

The Swansea prop Stuart Evans, dismissed after fighting with Jones in a club match last month, is still waiting to hear his

"It is rough justice. A pro-fessional footballer gets a onematch ban, but we are dishing out the same 30 days as when rugby was an amateur sport," Vale's chairman, Malcolm Shepherd, said. "We are not going to take this lying down. It's crazy that a professional sportsman still has to answer to amateur rules, and has to obey masters of an amateur game."

Jones, who joined Vale from Warrington earlier this season,

was punished by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary committee. He won 14 international caps before joining the league ranks.

second successive victory over Italy at under-21 level at Inverleith yesterday afternoon. Two tries each from the Edin Scotland centre Alan Bulloch, plus 16 points from the boot of Heriot's stand-off Gordon Ross. helped the Scots to an easy victory. Scotland's next game at this level is against Wales in Edinburgh on 17 January.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The yards that a lob by Wigan Athletic's Matt Carracher travelled before dropping over the head of the Scarborough keeper in a reserve football match at Springfield Park this week. Only 100 fans witnessed the goal.

Clever Gregory

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Andy Gregory has named a strong Great Britain squad for the 12-nation World Nines in Australia, aided by a loophole that allows Steve Holgate to continue to be regarded as a Workington Town player.

Wigan announced the signing of the 24-year-old second row last week, but the Rugby League is withholding his registration until Wigan pay Salford the £10,000 they still owe them for the transfer of Terry O'Connor.

If Holgate was already registered with Wigan. Gregory would be unable to select him. as there is a limit of one player from each club and Wigan's Andy Farrell will captain the side. The squad, who go to Townsville, north Queensland, on 31 January for the three day tournament, include nine other players who featured in Britain's recent tour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand,
Great Britan Squab; a Favel Wigar, cord.
S Spruce Bodford. S Neytor Carboth, M. Compton: Orderan, J. Bendey Practic, A Solid (Caste
ford). K Senior Gretteria. B. J Mather (Western
Retts). B Betts Jackinstry Warners, K Camingtages (St Nesens. P Senitionpe (Warnerson).
A Modey Jacets. S Hotgare (Workington).
T Tollett (London).

Cannock to try again

Hockey BILL COLWILL

The Premier League leaders.

Cannock, have an early opportunity to make up for last week's failure to beat Guildford before the National League heads for winter hibernation when they play the same side this weekend in one of four games postponed from 24 November.

Cannock, who only drew at Guildford last week and would have lost if either Martin Sampson or David Mathews had been a shoulder in that game.

aways, will welcome the return from suspension of their captain, Kalbir Takher, who should strengthen a midfield which

lacked conviction tast Sunday. Teddington, still without Great Britain's Olympic captain. Jason Laslett, upset second placed Southgate last weekend. Southgate will be pleased that Army Major Peter Boxell is back from the Falklands and able to line up at sweeper in place of their player-coach, James Duthie, who dislocated

Australia for the two Test matches last summer would have noticed a definite improvement when we played them this time." Bowring claimed.

Bowring has made five changes, one enforced through Gareth Thomas' injury, from bit as much as the long-suffering Welsh rugby public. Sunday's match is the 12th of Bowring's the starting line-up outgunned in every department by Aus-Despite that defeat, far more comprehensive than the 28-19 dismal record of eight defeats score suggested. Bowring be-

reign, which started last January with a win over Italy, but has been unsatisfactory, to say the least, since then. A Five Nations

QUOTES OF

THE WEEK

Given the right car and

the right backing nothing is impossible. Nigel Mansell

believes his comeback to

Formula One racing could

lead to the world title next

Watching City is the best laxative in the land.

Phil Neal, Manchester

City's caretaker manager.

I tumed down Mike

[Tyson], without even both-

ering to ask how much mon-

ey they were prepared to pay

me. Emanuel Steward,

Lennox Lewis's trainer, who

rejected the former world

heavyweight champion's ap-

I just can't believe some of the reaction to a couple

of early tour defeats. We

have been acclimatising,

but the doom-and-gloom

merchants have been get-

ting into us already. England

cricket captain, Mike

Atherton, after his side fi-

nally won a match in Zim-

The spirit here is fantastic

and I'm not going to let an

outburst spoil it. George

Graham, the Leeds man-

ager, after Tony Yeboah

showed his frustration at

being left out of the team.

against

b a b w e , Matabeleland,

proach to be his trainer.

and one draw, stretching back lieves his side are on the right win over France which avoided 90 years, against South Africa. "People who were out in another championship white- nation during that period."

a hard-edged pack, makes them nation during that period. comfortable favourites. wash, was the highlight, but the two other successes came against Italy again and an understrength Barbarians.

The Springboks are going for a fifth successive Test win after Bowring needs a victory every a brace of 2-0 series triumphs over Argentina and France since New Zealand beat them on home soil earlier this year. Since Wales last won the Triple Crown in 1988 they have lost 20 of their last 36 home games, and they have not

Marches not on pools coupons; 3.0 unless

Marches not on pools coupons: 3.0 unless stated
ACARLISBERG WASE Third rounds Brigg viow
Law, South Shelds v Bedfington Ferrers; Loud
v Whith: Dunston FB v Holler Ox Boys; Tetley
Walker v Traitord II. 301; Haltam v Morth Ferrby; Gurshonsels v Pouron Vectors at Whith;
Osself Albon v Namwich. Vauutal GM v Moslos; Geding v Durham II. 301; Haltadat Hendley
Antietre v Stamford; Oxfort v Cognition II. 301;
Spalking v Badgnorth Barking v Seffron Walders,
Normmood v Harlow. Histon v Meropolitan Police; Stewarts & Uoyds Corby v Southern
Manort Coller Rive & Roundont V Stamberge Wisbech v Diss. Concord Rungers v Greenwich Botough; Arless v Biotimers St Michaels: Burgets
Hill v Bernmon Health Harlequins, Bindjaster v
Faunton; Manglosheld v Chippenham; Tiveton
v Pescelates v Biotimers
V Bestelmen & Tolscomber First Tower (Int or
Reading Town II. 301; Burntham v Whitesable;
Hern Bay v Saltash; Barreleau i Intro; Thalchan
v Windborre.
Itts LEAGUE Premier Divisions Aylesbury v

Herné Ray v Salash: Banched v Trunz, Thalchann v Winhome.

NES LEAGUE Premier Division: Aytesbury v
reading: Bonerham Wood v St. Albaris: Bronnieg
v Heators: Dagenham & Redindige v Oxford Chy.
Goys v Sutton Utit, Harrow Bornugh v Chertsey;
Huchon v Beshop's Storytord; Kingstonian v Entects Stomes v Dulwoch; receiv i Heybridge. Piest
Division: Basingstoke v Leyton Permant.
Berkvamstod v Bognor Regss; Carvey Istard v
Adjershot: Cryption v Busindige; Madremhead v
Wilyseleuss; Martow v Orusham; Molesey v Hampton; Thame v Borton Revers, Toolning & Merchan
v Viston & Hersham, Wokingham v Abnigston
Jose; Worthing v Bilberay, Second Divisions.
Bedford v Hungerford; Bracknell v Hamel Hompstead: Challont St. Perse v Eghant Christy v
Christiant; Westfoley Wine; Taird Division: Aeley's Kingsbury, East Thuroch v Egonn & Feel;
Reckyell Heator v Cambeler; Eng v Hamchurth
Weatstone v Clapton; Wingste & Finchey v
Southall.

Southall.
Unigo Nito LeAGUE, Promiler Division: Accuragion Stanley v Guiseler: Altheiron v Cologna Bay, Barnew v Buston; Bryth Spartans v Leek.
Boston Utr v Runcom: Emiley v Chorlor; Invesider v Bishop Auck land; Lancaster v Garrabraught Sperantion v Marthum; Whitcher v Garraber Bindge, Watton v Finchley, Frist Division Articol Bart Limitals Lind; Conglesion v Workington: Currant Ashton v Whitelity Bay; Enstand Town v Droyledern Flacton v Altherton LR; Gintha v Hartpipes Voors: Leight Wildiock Netherfield v Bradford Pair Autrous; Warmigton v Fursiely Colyx.

R MARTINES, LEAGUE Devenier Division of Martines.

Football

Much will be expected from the Welsh midfield of Jonathan

Davies, Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman, who a year ago were playing for Wales in the Rugby League World Cup, but it is up front where their hopes stand

South Africa may have sent 10 players surplus to requirements home early, and they could well be fatigued, but the likes of Andre Joubert and Joost van der Westhuizen, plus

NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Cenaby v Armthorph; Glasshbughton v Beher: Hatlledd Man v Ashfeld; Lucysedga v Armold; Piciering v Malthy; Thackley v Selby; Pon-leftact v Osseti, Tomn.

COMFORTABLE FAVOURITES.
WALES: N Lenkins (Portypridd); I Evens (Lanelt), A Barteman (Rotmond), S Glibbs (Suarsea), D James (Brdgend); J Davies (Cardif), R Howiey (Cardif), C Loader (Swarsea), J Hampiaraya (Cardif), capt), D Young (Cardif), G Liewellyn (Harbours), M Routey (Portypridd), D Michintosh (Portypridd), S Williams (Neart), C Chards (Swarsea), Replacements: L Davies (Cardif), A Thomas (Swarsea), P John (Portypridd), N Thomas (Bath), L Mustice (Cardif), G Jenidas (Swarsea). (Swersen). SOUTH AFRICA: A Journett J Small, J Mul-der, H Le Roux, J Oliwer, H Horibell, J van der Westhulzen: D Theron, J Delton, A Qar-vey, K Wiese, M Andrews, R Kruger, G Teich-menn Lept), A Verrier, Replacements: K Put, A Snyman, W Fyrie, F van Heerden, T van der Linde, H Tromp.

Referee: S Lander (England).

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

v Mairin County. HARIP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Finn Harps v Cork (by (7.30); Sigo Rovers v St Patrick's Athletic (7.30).

Rugby Union

MATIONAL MATCH otland v Italy

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Welsh President's Under-21 v Natal Under-21 (1.0) (at Swangsa) ROYAL AND SUR ALLIANCE COLTS COUNTY FINAL East Micland Colls v Kerr Colls (1.0) (at Teackenham).

Amotic Pictoring v Matthy; Thucktoy v Sethy; Ponseriota v Ossett Youn,
Winstrout LAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions
Bedwinken v Chathers Canterbury v Day; Fiserstan v Folkestone; Thamesmed v Hythe; Tunbridge Webs v Ramsgate; Woolwich v Sooe Green,
URLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pregrier Division: Bourne v Weitingborough; Desborough v S Neotic Spreatury v Neonor Pagnesi;
Ford Sports v Boston Town; Hobbech v Rempstor Long Budday v Stodoi; Potton v Horitampton Spencer: Woothort v Marriers Blackstone.
UNITET SUSSIC COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Hasham v Ostwood; Horsham YMCA v
Estituame Journ Paglism v Langrey Sports; Porfield v Saldden; Ringrey v Southwick; Setsey
v Three Bridges; Whitehauk v Arundel; John
O'hark League Lup Irind xund; Hassock v Mille
Ook; Wick v Chichester.
Bidnesd v Chart; Bridge on v Bridgi Manor
Farm; Borridadie v Westbury; Emore v Bridgin Manor
Farm; Borridadie v Westbury; Emore v Bridgin
Jornigon v Odd Down. Lee Philis; Gup secord round; Phutton v Bishop Sutton; Buteford
v Deures.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divi-NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST DIVI-

sion; Blackpool Rouers v Marrie Roed; Cittherne v Arberton Collegnes; Danven v St Helens: Eest-wood Harvley v Pennth; Nasgrove v Cheddenton; Gossop v Bursonugh; Prescot v Bootle; Selford v Rossendale. v Hossendale.

JEMSON WESSEX (LEAGUE: Lymmgton v Rom-sey, Andoner v Cowes Boors; BAT Sports v Christchundt: East Cowes Vog v Blockonflusts; Gosport Borough v Downton; Peterpfield v Tot-ear; Portamouth RN v Boumemouth; Ryde Sports v Aemostruchures; Whitchurch v Eastings.

ton: Pertamouth RN v Bournemouth; Ryde Sports v Acrostruseres; Whichburch v Eastleigh. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Divisions: Clacton v Misrch; Great Yammouth v Felostowe; Hydiegh v Felorehart: Harwich & Parkeston v Worthoya: Lowestoff v Bury Tourt; Newmentelt v Goffeston; Soham v Subtany Tourt; Stowmor-let v Sudbury Wanderes; Walton v Tipplee. INTERLING EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCES Browech v Servicel, Holesowen Harmen v Boy.

Sutton Coldfield v Redderch; VS Rugby v Pages. Southern Division: Bashley v Merging; Cindentrol v Buckingsam Town; Derford v Hensent: Fisher Athletic v St Legvards Stamcroft: Fiser v Cerucaster, Forest Gleen Roves v Farsham; Nes-port laW v Wirrey; Forbridge v Yaker, Waterloovile v Cerucator; Weston-super-Mare v Trovotnoige; Weymouth v Enth & Behedere.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Man-chester Utd v Derby (2.0) (at Bigg Lane, Bury).

England v Argentina (3.0) ...

TOUR MATCH: Emerging Water v South Africa A (at Swansee).

(8t Trackenham).
SWALEC CLIP Fifth round: Abercam v Ysradignisti Bedwad v Aberginon; Bladwood v Hivsaun; Cross Keys v Torprefait; Felinfoel v Narberth; Kolwely v Cermether Quins; Liendowey v Bringbove; Liantrisant v Dinas Powys; Meestie; v Aberavon; Mountain Ash Vollitich Goott; (Newcastle Ernfyn v Resolven; Pencioed v Glywhesth; Pengigalg v Tredegar; Portysymmer v Aberganenny; Pengigalg v Tredegar; Portysymmer v Aberganenny; Pengypool v Dogsaur, Pyle v Camarathan Art; Fillymmey v Ammantard (2,01; South Wales Police v Bunymaen; Whitaind v Bush Wells.

RNSURANCE COSPORATION Wales LEAGUE

manterd (2.0); South Wales Police v
Bonymann; Wheland v Butht Wels.

RISHMANCE CORPORATION Hassel LEAGUE
First Division; Bischrock College v Old Wasley; Durigiamon v Ballymena; Instanciars v St.
Mary's College; Old Bohadere v Young Munstar; Old Ceacent v Landowne; Shannon v
Cork Constitution; Tenenure Coll v Garryowen
Second Obtaleat Bective Rangers v NIFC;
DLSP v Dothint; Denry v Montestion; Melone
v Contart's Sunday's Well v Skernes; IOC v
legitied; Wandgerst v Chrystones;
COURTY CHAMPOONSHEP South Pool One:
South Pool Twee Denun v Middleser (2.15) (at
Bridgeword), South Pool Threes Easen Courties v Dorset & Wits (at Braintree); Hampanira
v Beisshire (2.15) (at Bangstode), South Pool
Four: Conflucit v Gloucestiershure (at Redruth); Sussel v Ment (2.15) (at Worthing).
North Pool Toes; East Malands v Lancadure
(at Bedford): Lebestershury Curronts (at Syston), North Pool Toes: Notts, Ipos & Derby
v Cheshure (at Newark); Warwigishire v
Northumberland (3.0) (of Rubge), North Pool
Three Rotth Midlands v Yonshire (at Stearbridge); Steffondshire v Durham (at Burton).

ANGLO-WELSH CLIP Pool 28: Orrel v Newport (2.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Aspatria v Pennth; Bath v
Welstrield (1.0); Bradford & Bringey v Hattogate (2.15); Camberley v Basingstole: Consonphine v Aberdeen (SSFP (11.0); GHK v
Nimemock (11.0); Glesgow Accob v Gordoniars (11.0); Grangemouth v Biegar (11.0);
Haddingson v Dunlemfree (11.0); Lecis v Nortradford v Huld fortiens (2.15); Redding v Henley
(2.15); Pymodit v Torquey; Preston Grasshoppers v Huld fortiens (2.15); Redding v Henley
(2.15); Sheffield v
Morkey; String County v Ayr (11.0); Vale of
Lune v Fydor; Wagsal v Stoke; Waterico v Boroughmuir; Weston-super-Mare v Taunton
(12.30); Wurcestor v Sportans; Havent v High
Wycombe; Merthyr v Cardet.

Hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: East Emisteed

v Hourister (1.30); Southgate v Teodington (
2.0). First Division: Edglasson v Crostyx
(1.30); Stoupnot v Beeston (1.0);

NASTRO AZZURRO South Premier: Ashlord

v Turbridge Weist; Bedverham v Chichester;
Bournenouth v Rangerha; Farsham v Wokinglant; Gore Court v Old Whigefleans; Hangesteed & Westmurster v High Wycombe;
Maidlenhead v Anchonans; Old Kingstonans v
Sperioer; Richmond v Woking; Winchester v Wenbledon.

DTZ MEDLAND Premier: Blossomfield v Lough-borough Students; Coventry & North Werwek v Blownich; Hampton-in-Arden v North Norts; Habtorie v Northrigham: Olzon & West, Werwick v Blownich

v Rivalso.
NORTH First Division: Ben Rhydding v Swal-well: Chester v Norton; Formby v Ramagarha; Neston v Triperley; Sherhold Bankers v Soudport; Springfleds v Herrogate.
EAST RIDOOR SUPER LEAGUE (Aldescheim School 12.30-8.0th st Albans, Ford Durton, Chelmston, Blucharts, Spaking, Old Loughto-nens & Redutige & Nort. WOMEN'S EAST Premier: Cambridge City v Wel-wyn Garden Chy; Harlaston Magbies v Bury St Edmunds: Ipswich v Bedeynesth; Sevengals v Aghford.

Wonlen's South First Division: City of Porsmouth v Dulwich; Horstern v Winenester; Southermation v Hampstead & Westminster; Winchmore Hill v Tulse Hill; Worthing v Reed-

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thomes Valley Tigers v Manchester Grents (8.0); Buttin's Worthing Bears v Leicester Riders (8.0). 7-UP TROPHY: Hernel & Wastord Royals v

Ice bockey
PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston Hawks v Mea,
way Bears (6.30): Stough Jets v Guidton
Parmes (6.30): Tellord Tigers v Swindo
loeLords (7.30).

Other sports BOORNE: Vacart Brosh fight-middleweight for R Rhodes (Sheffield) v P Jones (Sheffield vacart British cruisenveight trife: J Nets (Sheffield) v D Andres (Habbrey) (Ponds For Sports Centre, Sheffield).

TOMORROW HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Bottemunts v Bray Wanderes (3.15): Stemmock Rovers v Derry City (3.15): University College Dublin v Shel-

Rugby Union

(3.0 unless stated)
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales v South Africa tat Cardiff Arms Park). PRIKINGTON CUP Fourth round: Rossiyn Par CLUB MATCHES: West Hardepool v Namca

ANNOUNAL LEAGUE Premier: Cannock v Guid-ford (2.0); Howart v Surbton (2.15). First Di-vision: Donusseer v Hull (2.0); Sheffield v Leaes. (1.0).

Burdweiser LEAGUE: Newcastle Fagles v Derby Storm (5.30): Edde London Towers v Sheffeld Starks (7.15).

7-UP TROPHY: Prugeot Bullets Barningham v Hernel & Watford Royals (7.0). ICO NOCKEY

PREMER LEAGUE: Guidford Flames v Swindon localunds (6.0); Medinay Bears v Kingston
Hawiss (6.15); Stough Jets v Testord Tigers
(6.30); Solinuli Blaze v Paterbarough Prates
(7.0).

SUPPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles v New-castle Colvas (6.30).

MTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE: Great Britain

Other sports

yountb

Dettori story finds the going good

Only those who have pitched their tent in close proximity to a Shining Path guerrilla en-campment recently will be unaware that Frankie Dettori's autobiography is on the shelves.
If there is a television pro-

gramme that does not feature either Jill Dando or racing's laughing boy at the moment it must be on just after the milkman has risen. Dettori's ubiquity (he has appeared on Top Of The Pops, The Big Breakfast, Smillie's People and Clive Anderson All Talk among others) is explained by the publication of his life work to the age of 25.

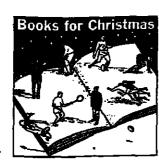
This book was to have followed the format of those reli-ably terrible turf dirges and charted the path of a personality over a season's span. However, when Dettori was ejected by Shawanni at Newbury in June it may have hurt his elbow but it did no harm to A Year In The Life Of Frankie Dettori (Heinemann, £15.99) as the Italian was forced to investigate other areas. Thus we get a flavour of the teenager's spartan early days in New-market, though there is less discussion about another taste. for narcotics, which an immature Dettori sampled in 1992.

The main criticism of the book, as it is with most turf biographies, is that there is a nomad's attitude to dwelling when it comes to reflection on misdemeanours and mistakes. Nevertheless, given the popularity of the named author (who claims the book is just about all his own work) there is much to believe in the assertion of Dettori's management that the

book is going well.

Michael Kinane has, on the other hand, had a relatively barren season leading up to his au-thorised biography. Nevertheless, Michael Clower has done well to get a book out of a jockey who speaks as frequently as Pinocchio before Gepetto got his chisel out. settee all year as hubby snips

Mick Kinane Big Race King (Mainstream, £15.99) concerns a man who has reached the same heights as Dettori without sections of this effort come can think of. I'm in it.



Richard Edmondson examines the latest literary offerings from jockeys, journalists and bookmakers

when Kinane analyses his own character and manner. The jockey damns himself from his own mouth and occasionally sounds like the sort of bloke with whom you would not like

Timing has also been of the essence with David Ashforth. whose Hitting The Turf (Headline, £14.99) is available just after the author's deserved recognition as the racing writer of the year. This book is vaguely autobiographical and probably sharply distressing for the writer's family. Ashforth revels in his role as one of Britain's most serious unprofessional punters.

The sketches he provides are well-observed and, most importantly, in a sport that churns out enough comantic junk to fill Becher's Brook, they are real. It is quite simply the best racng book for some time. Christmas is also the time

when Graham Sharpe, William Hill's media relations manager, churns out one of his compilation books. Mrs Sharpe must get very annoyed with all those slivers of paper left behind the items that tickle him from the national press. Odds, Sods And Racing Certs (Robson Books, £14.95) has been done before, a trace of the same level of en- but it does possess the single joyment. The most compelling greatest attribute this writer



Fab Five: Muhammad Ali meets the Beatles in Miami in February 1964. Ali was preparing for his fight against Sonny Liston. The Beatles had just appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show for the first time. The photograph, by UPI/Bettmann is taken from Muhammad Ali: In Perspective by Thomas Hauser, published by Collins, £14.99

Varying accounts of the life of Jacques the lad

impact on Formula One is about to be reflected in a race for book buyers. The in-house, glossy, lavishly illustrated offering is out of the pits ahead of the publication that has got the driver's camp hot under the collar. The New Villeneuve by

Tim Collings (Bloomsbury). While Collings endeavours to reveal the "warts and all" story of Jacques the lad, Villeneuve: My First Season In Formula One (Collins Willow, £20) written for the Canadian driver by Gerald Donaldson, charts a safer course, race by race to second place in the world championship

Jacques Villeneuve's dramatic behind his Williams-Renault team-mate, Damon Hill.

Villeneuve represents the new generation in Formula One, a cavalier, unceremonious individual intent on conveying that very image. "I prefer people who are genuine and I try to be that myself," he says. "I wouldn't like to feel I was obliged to conform."

The 25-year-old former IndyCar champion has been enthusiastically embraced by some of the younger grand prix drivers. David Coulthard has welcomed him as a breath of fresh air, saying even Michael Schumacher has been charmed and influenced by him.

and a low APR. Interested?

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Cards

Derick Allsop casts a critical eye over the best motor racing books

There is little doubt Villeneuve takes in close encounters, othhas earned Schumacher's re- ers, like Michael Schumacher, spectacularly characterised by the manoeuvre which took him comparison with Hill and, in-round and past the German's Fer-deed, Villeneuve congratulates rari in Portugal. Villeneuve had employ the oval-style tactic, and m: "You see, it worked!"

to get flustered and make mis-

spect. His combative style was know exactly what they are doing," Villeneuve says. No direct the Englishman on his "desuggested to his crew he might served" title success and portrays an excellent working relationship. was quickly on the radio to tell And yet you are left wondering. - Another cardidate for For-

The respect between Vil- mula One's Crazy Gang is Edleneuve and Schumacher is mu- die Irvine and with belp from tual. "While some drivers tend" Maurice Haiffilion; the Ulster-

with Ferrari, as well as earlier days, in Green Races Red (Collins Willow, £14.99). Irvine, too, can give the im-

pression he works at being "nat-ural". And, in common with other members of the gang, he does not have a particularly high regard for Hill. He is critical of the way Hill handled the ill-fated negotiations for a new contract with Williams, and agrees with those who feel he is no match for Schumacher. "Nobody in equal equipment could beat Schumacher. There are a

Irvine has taken a progmatic approach to life as Schumacher's No 2. He accepts it, just as he accepts his team-mate's preeminence. If, however, the Williams is still beyond reach; season and Heinz-Harald Fain tzen handles the pressure. Irvine

believes Frentzen "will walk it". in Irvine, The Luck Of The Irish (Patrick Stephens, £9.99), Adam Cooper, like Collings, develops his own picture without direct assistance from the driver concerned. couple of drivers who could take Michael Schumacher the Formula him on in slightly superior cars (Fig. Success (Ebury Press, but even then, I don't think Da. 117.99), will be reviewed in next Monday's sports section.



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116.7% APR) and 1.7% per month (22.4% APR) for cash advances, which must be repaid in full cach month. The minimum monthly repayments will be 5% of the outstanding balance or £20 whichever is greater. Applicants must in 18 or over. Subject to status. American Express Services Europe Ltd., Rog. Office:

WEMENT - MEMBERSHIP TO CASE OF THE PARTY OF

Portland House, 1 Stag Place, Landon SWIE 5BZ, Reg. No. 1833139.

Summer jumping 'ridiculous'

jumping and moderate racing for the plethora of small fields after saddling Yorkshire Gale to win a two-horse race at Cheltenham vesterday. Gifford said fields will not improve while the racing programme, which now includes summer jumping. caters for moderate horses.

He said: "These races cut up because there are not enough good horses to go round and never will be while the powersthat-be look after moderate horses. If they stopped summer jumping, it would help racing in the autumn. Even in the days of Arkle there were three- or fourrunner races, but the public came to watch because there were good horses to see.

"I've got Major Summit but nowhere to run him. He must ei-ther take on the big boys, which he is not ready for, or carry top weight in a handicap. There are not enough races to educate nice young quality horses. There are more horses than ever, but they are bad ones. My moderate horses have won more times this vear because I can't find races

for the better ones." And he added: "Summer jumping is the most ridiculous thing to have happened to racing and, as for all-weather racing, who wants it? The jockeys cover their faces with masks but what about the poor old horses who have to suck in all the dirt and sand?"

CHIELTENHAM

553.60.

3.40: 1 ELBURG (M A Fingered) 7-2; 2. Rundway Pebe 12-1; 3. Olympian 8-1, 10 ran, 15-8 by Lockmagnan (unassed nder), 14, 7, (Tocupe, Tober 54.60; £1.80, £2.30, 53.00, 07; £27.30, CSF: £41.01, Tricest: £291.24, Tao: £53.80.

actopot: £1,069.20.

7.00 Super Chappy 7.30 Arapi 8.00 Souperficial 8.30 High Premium 9.00 Petosidn 9.30 Gadge

DRAW ADVANTAGE: bleh from 6f to 1m 4f. DEAN ADVANTAGES ings from of 6 in 4.

Ethressand, left-band, oval course.

Course is north of town on A449. Wolverhampton station one rule away. ADMISSION: Cub £15; Tattersalis £6 (OAP members of Dismond Club £1); Viewing Restaurant £25.90 including entrance and mest. CAR PARE: free.

BLINKREED FIRST TIME: Set The Fachion (9.30). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Forest; (9.00) sept 181 miles
by J J O'Neill from Skekon Wood End, Cambria.

7.00 MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2YO 1m 100yds 5 DOUBLE CREST (19) M Johnston 89...

7.30 WINTER'S TALE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2YO 7f 5311 ABNY (22) Str Mark Prescutt 9 0 ... 233250 PROOF BRITALION (SB) R Hollinshed 405053 WOMORE LIR HECEBURY (28) E Asto 831 TRANSMUZER (42) (C) C Thomas 9

8.00 AS YOU LIKE IT HANDICAP (CLASS E)

258212 JUST LOUR (14) (C) W Ramer 8 11. 000 STATE OF GOLD (73) J Harbston 8 - 8 declared tto 8 11 S We

520024 DESENT BOWDER (15) (12) D'Chaptriet 5 10 O.A Cultures 2 DOUGH DESCRIPTION REPORT (APP. 1947) O'SERTE TO DO COMMENT (APP. 1947) SERTE TO COMMENT (APP. 1947) SER

8.30 D) £4,000 added 1m 1f 79yds BENTLEY JENNISON HANDICAP (CLASS

DELD

The second second second

Apple With the same

Park Street Street

9.00 PLYVINE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 6f 166yds 600033 FORZAR (195 J 1 0 New 4 9 7. 60033 PORZAR (19) I 1 O'Nei 4 9 7 501001 PEUSRIE (14) (20) J Peerce 4 9 7 040000 MAPENDO (22) I Cultimar 5 9 3 04000 ZELBA, 455 M/s N Maccaley 4 9 2 000-00 Bibliomer Cost (11) R Person (6 8 12 2 025020 ROSE OF GLERR (19) B Palling 5 8 17 05000 STELL HERE (12) (3 P Bover 3 8 10 0 STAR OF LIDOMAR (19) F Ormer 8 8 5 4 SILESKA DANCER (14) P Eure 3 8 5 ____lo Human (7) 9 _____D liggs 2 _____C Rutter 5 _____A McGone 1 _A McGione 1 _C Webb (7) 8

ING: 7-4 Patratio, 7-2 Forzak, 9-2 Salaba Dancar, 5-1 Rose Of Citos 8-1 Still Here, 10-1 Zeliba, 16-1 Mapungo, 46-1 oti

9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 added 1m 4f

RACING RESULTS

DONCASTER CHELTENHAM

12.15: 1. DISALIOWED (M A Ringwald)

4.1 fav; 2. Society Megle 10-1: 3. Pleasureleand 5-1, 12 ram. 4, 1 (Mas H Kright). Tete: 53.60: £2.00, £2.50, £2.00. DF. £2.60.

DONCASTER

12.08: 1. BWN AT THE TOP (W Fty) 6-4;
2. Hearbest Lodge 11-10 fbty 3. Tweedswood
10-1.9 Fass. 3, 13, U Norton). Totas: F2.60;
51.10, 51.50, 51.60. DF. 51.50. GSF;
53.71. Tide 54.10.
12.38: 1. TOULSTON LADY (Mr R Thorston) 8-1; 2. Laughing Budesweer 4-1 for far;
3. Ositivary 8-1. 11. Fass. 4-1 for far Mustary
15-11. Fass. 4-1 fbty, risk, U Whiston).
Totas: F13.00; F3.00, F2.30, F2.10. Dayleresset: E31.50. GSF: £40.69. Tho:
£13.00; F3.00 (SSF: £40.69. Tho:
£13.00; L. BERUDE NOT TO LI Ositione) 1-6 far; 2. Key To Moyade 8-1; 3. Snowdon
Lily 50-1. 4 Fass. 4, dist. (D Sherwood). Totas:
£1.30. DF: £1.50. GSF: £2.09,
1.48: 1. GUNESRAUN CWILLENGE (R Gar-13-6, 3 talk, 3, 11. (M Weight), 10 kg 15/0. DF: £3.10. CSP. £13.92.

1.20: 1. BEATSON (§ Hogan) 5-4 fav, 2. Buyers Deam 9-2; 3. Lindow's Lotto 9-2. 5 ran. 7, dst, IR Bucker). Trate £1.90; £1.30, £1.50. DF: £3.00, CSF: £5.18.

1.58: 1. CHAI-YO (§ Uptor) 5-4 fav, 2. Kippanour 9-1; 3. Sovereigns Parade 11-2. 4 ran. 12, 21. U Old. Tote: £1.90. DF: £4.50. CSF: £8.75.

2.30: 2. VorsiSHIRE GALE IN Meantson 11-10; 2. Glemot 4-5 fav, 2 ran. 10. U Gr. ford), Tatte: £1.80. NR; Raintow Casole.

2.06: 1. DARAYDAN (R Hugher) 6-4 fav, 2. Mr Darry 40-1; 3. Beacon Filght 12-1 gran. 18.2%; (M Pps), Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £3.20, £1.80. DF: £42.20. CSP: £4.53. The £53.60.

3.40: 1. EURIRG (M A Figserald 7-2; 2.

1.48: 1 CURRIAN CHALLENGE (R Gar-my) 5-4 fay; 2. Cadison Bay 11-8; 3. Crys-tal Spirit 9-2. 3 ran. ½, 2½. (T Easterby). Tota: £2.20. Dr. £1.60. CSF: £2.97. Non

Rumer: In Touth.
2.20: 1. OUT ON A PROMISE (D Firmsgarb 7: 2: Faithful Hand 5-1; 3: Peet Master 12: 1.7 ran. 13-8 fac Cartay Felon (6th).
9, 7, (N Walker). Totar £3.80; £2.10, £2.80, £7: \$3.00, £7: \$2.057. 2.65; 1. ZENEDAR (C O'Dwyer) 13-8 tay. 2. Newholf Prince 9-1; 3. Eastern Megic 15-8. 3 ran. 2, 10. (K Baley). Tota: £1.60. DF: £5.00. CSF. £5.69. Fine Harvest (3-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 25p in the pound.

3.30: 1. HURST FLYER (A Dobbin) 7-1; 2. Derring Flore 33-1; 3. Rechel Lodise 9-2. 11 ran. 4-7 fev Country Orchol (6th). nk, 5. (F Murtagh). Tete: £9.70: £3.00; £18.60; £1.10. Dr. £388.90. CSP. £301.07. 7for £254.70 £225.28 camed forward to Hay-dock 1.45 today). Placespot: £42.50. Quadpot: £13.60, Places 8: £25.76. Place 5: £22.38.

LINGFIELD LINGFIELD

11.25: 1 MASTER OF PASSION (D)
Sweeney) 7-2 km 2: Sally Stade 5-1: 2. Miss
Amagon 15-2. 10 mm. 1½, sn-hd. (I Eustace,
). Toker £3.80: £1.10, £2.00, £1.50. DF:
£11.30. CSF: £19.49. Technic £112.77. The:
£11.80. 1 SHANGHAI LII. (F Norton) 14£: 2. Tissure of Uses 6-1: 3. Royal Curiton
20. 12 mm. 2-1 km Effort. 2 mic Of Fethyston-Godiey). Toker £23.80: £4.00, £1.70.
£3.70. DF: £73.00. CSF: £91.21. Thogst:
£1,558.91. Take £100.60 £1.70. SS. 70.

Invested to Haydock 1.45 botsy).

\$1,550.91. Too: £150.00 LE1/8.00 carried forward to Haydick 1.45 foday).

12.25: 1. MILITAHDA (M Roberts) 1.4-1:
2. General Haven 11.-2: 3. Nothing Doing 10-1. 14 van. 4-1 fav Basood. 3, 5, 18 Armstorig). Tota: £13.40; £3.20, £2.40, £4.50.

DP: £29.00. CSP: £81.40. Troast: £746.57.

Teo: £190.10 (£241.07 carried forward to Haydick 1.45 totals).

dock 1.45 today). 1.00: 1.ABSOLUTELYSTURBENG (P.P.Mag-

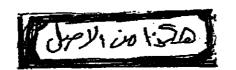
FEM HALLERYS TATES 1.35:1 KECDILEN LAD (D.R.McCabel 7

1.38: 1. KRACHLEN LAD (D.R. McCabe) 7-2 tar, 2. The Wyandotte lan 14-1; 3. Bold Spring 9-1. 12 ran, 1d, 1%, P. McCare), Teter 52.10; £1.50, £3.10, £2.50. DF: £29.60. CSP: £47.82. Neset £389.90. The: £50.60, 2.10: 1. MRLAS MR Roberts 8-1; 2. Negaler Star 11-4; 3. Feattlembone Lana 7-1. 10 ran, 9-4 tar Mair (4th), 4. ykt.-1d, 1. Mcningue Hall. Totar: £8.50; £2.30, £1.50, £2.50, DF: £18.70, CSP: £28.22, Tricast £155.48. The: £25.00.
2.46: 1. SUPPREME MAINOON (T.G. McLastinia) 3-1, time; 2. Haven Golf Lover 20-1; 3. Hellowski 7-2, 8 atn. 3-1, £ to Physic Routette, 4, 4, 6, Physics 10 Totar £4.20; £1.30, £5.70, £2.00. DP: £38.00, CSP: £48.34, 3.15; 1. SOAMSHS (D.R. McCabe) 5-1; 2. Berouse Valley 13-2; 3. Ernest 10-1, 9 ran, 2-1 far Scoty 19-15, 5.00, §2.30, DP: £18.00, CSP: £48.34.
NRS: Herican Wall, Hetta Surshina.
Placepot: £768.40, Quadpot: £22.80. Placepot: £168.40. Quedpot: £22.80. Place 6: £240.50. Place 5: £128.38.

Place 6: 1240:50. Place at 1220:50.

If Trainer Steve Collings was angry after the seward; referred him to Purtural Square over his withdrawal of in Truth at Doncaster. The stewards were not hopey over the gelding's withdrawal with a wais serimente. Stewards were not problems with the cartificate itself, but the stewards weren't happy with the circumstances surrounding it. It is true that Mr Collings had been telephoning in the morning checking on the greend. Collings said: "I'm ananyed they've done this."





Mountbrowne has luck on his side

resentation for the main races of the day at Cheltenham this afternoon, though it is difficult here was a pittance." ato decipher whether they are ere for the money or just a re-

the countries separated by the Irish Sea mean that animals There can never be peaceful from the land of Arkle no longer have to be ferried regularly to Britain in search of meaningful return.

here has improved a lot, so there is not so much need to travel," reach, that of his nation's outstanding trainer. Ted Walsh, the Irish commenbe at Christmas that you had to go the King George [VI Chase at Kempton], but now we've got a £50,000 chase at Leopardstown [the Ericcson Chase] and other races worth tens of thousands. 20 years ago they were

worth £1,000 a time.

HAYDOCK

1.15: Bold-jumping Clay County made all the running to win here in

Arkle had to do it in his heyday Ted Walsh is Ireland's one-

man job centre. The former Aidan goes over to England he's from your own racing."

champion amateur rider is now taking on decent horses in de
O'Brien's runner in the connaissance mission in ad- champion amateur rider is now vance of the Festival in March. a trainer, horse dealer, writer The developing economics of and broadcaster to name just a smattering of his postings. nights then for either the butcher, baker or candlestick maker near his Greenhills yard at Prize money over jumps Naas in Co Kildare, though there is one job out of Walsh's

Whenever this honour comes tator, said yesterday. "It used to along it a seems to be bestowed on a chap by the name of O'Brien. On the Flat, in the old days, Vincent was nonpareil. now Aidan (no relation) is soaring higher than a swift.

O'Brien has a runner in both the Tripleprint Gold Cup and the Bula Hurdle at Prestbury Okay, Cheltenham is still the Park this afternoon as he tries big one, but there is no need any to improve on a mediocre ear-

Richard Edmondson says the big race because the prize money over at Cheltenham can go to an Irish raider

> ly record in Britain. "When have that many runners away cent races, and it's not like over here where he has the bulk browne, who has enjoyed the of the runners and he's winning sort of kind fortune this season of the runners and he's winning a lot of little races as well, Walsh explained. Twe no doubt recognised. Merry Gale surthat, if he was based in England, he would take the place by

> "It's a bit like saying that Martin Pipe hasn't dominated racing in Ireland, even though he's done it at home. You don't Mountbrowne (next best 2.40)

> Sound Reveille doubly engaged The chaser Sound Reveille is en- at Cheltenham and the seco gaged twice today, the first preference is for the 1.15 at preference is for the 1.25 race Haydock.

MARCHANT MING, This four-

year-old showed a lot of promise last

eason and can be expected to show

improved form now he tries two and

2.15: Rough Quest is said to be big and burly for his seasonal debut,

however, and should be watched, as

er put into the race when a 27-length third behind Dublin Flyer at Win-

should Nahthen Lad, whose stable

a half miles for the first time.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Tullymurry Toff (Haydock 1.45) NB: Royal Mountbrowne (Cheltenham 2.40)

pearance effort under his belt, a bolder show is on the cards today, though whether he can overcome will be there at the finish. But eachway value may be found with

Tripleprint is Royal Mount-

for which his land is proverbially

rendered to him at Clonmel and

Fairyhouse, and Imperial Call,

the Gold Cup winner, also

threw himself to earth at the lat-

ter track with victory seeming-

CHRLTENHAM 1.35: CAROLE'S CRUSADER, who beat Flying Gunner by nine lengths in a three miles contest at Ascot recently, looks a useful staying hurdler in the making and will be hard to beat. Southern Nights may prove the biggest danger. has been out of form. Kadi was nev-

the classy ONE MAN is doubtful.

2.05: LARGE ACTION, who beat third behind Dublin Flyer at Win-canton last month. With that resp-

Grace Hurrille over 21/2 miles at Fairyhouse earlier in the month, looks a class above today's rivals. Al-though he may be better for the run, Pridwell looks the chief threat.

Cotswolds last year.

000 2.49: ADDINGTON BOY, who ran a creditable race on his reappearance to be about four lengths third to Challenger Du Luc and the subsequent First National Bank Handican Chase winner Strong Promise in the Murphy's Gold Cup Handicap Chase over 2m 4f 110vd on the Old course here in November, can make his class

may be the danger.

a novices' handicap chase by 1'/2 lengths from Whirly at Bangor last time, is marginally preferred to Im-perial Vintage, who is proven over these testing fences but came to grief on his latest venture.

at Warwick, can go one better. count over the extra 110 yards on the Mandys Mantino looks the threat.

luck holds, he may repel the obis given marginal preference at vious favourite, Addington Boy. a time of year, and around a course he enjoys. Even Imper-O'Brien's Theatreworld has no chance of beating Large ial Call would struggle to match Action in the Bula Hurdle on him in these circumstances. the evidence of their meeting in

Rough Quest, the Grand National winner, will be many the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at people's idea as the one for the Fairyhouse earlier this month, forecast, especially as Jenny but it may be another runner is worth following here. Pridwell (1.45) runs well at Cheltenham Pitman's Nahthen Lad will now be without his regular jockey. Warren Marston was injured in (he was third in the Champion a schooling accident on the Hurdle last March) and as he will travel from Martin Pipe's gallops yesterday and his seat on yard his belly is unlikely to be the Sun Alliance Chase winner

reason, Gordon Richards's grey

is taken by Rodney Farrant. scraping the floor on this his sea-Earlier there will be one of racing's more exhibitating sights sonal debut. He is worth a chance, particularly as he won on his comeback in the as Clay County (1.15) blasts off in front and attempts to get At Haydock, there should be home before the petrol runs out. while there are prospects, too, for a horse who runs his races a stirring contest for the Tommy Whittle Chase when One the other way round. No animal Man takes on Ouixall Crossett. has been able to resist the The latter may just have to give stealthful thrusts of TULLYsecond best in this conditions MURKY TOFF (nap 1.45) rerace, as in a handicap One cently and he should now record Man would have to give him the best part of eight stone. For this his fifth consecutive victory.

New course. The progressive Berton

3.15; GENERAL PONGO, who won

3.45: KARSHI, 11/4 lengths second to Balanak in a 2m 3f handicap hurdle

months ago and seems sure to get the strongly run race that suits him best. He will find it hard against some up-and-coming horses this time, though Tullymore Toff is receiving

January. On the same handicap mark now, Russ Garritty's mount is capable of setting up a big lead and is often hard to catch. POLITICAL TOWER was runner-up in this race last year off a 9lb lower mark. But the eight-year-old's fencing has improved since and his rider, Tim Reed, will be aiming to deliver a decisive late challenge.

HAYDOCK

12.45 Sanmartino

1.15 Political Tower 1.45 Marchant Ming

HYPERION'S

1.45: Home Counties was the victor in this highly competitive event 12 though. Tallymurry Toff is prosuing his fifth successive victory and despite being 7lb higher for his latest win.

2.50 THURSDAY NIGHT (nap) 3.25 Auburn Boy

Left-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furiouss. Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m, ADMISSION: Park Suite viewing restaurant) 525; County Stand 515; Tattersalls 59 (QAPs & Students 54.50); Newon Stand \$1 (OAPs & Students \$2), CAR PARK: Free.

2.15 One Man

HYPERION

E LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: G Richards - 30 winners from 100 runners gives a success ratio of 30.2% and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$10.18; M C Pipe - 27 win Apres, 124 manners, 21.8%, 534.91; J G PitasGerald - 13 winners, 48 manners, 27.1%, +514.68; Jun M Reveley - 12 winners, 54 manners, 32.3%, 49.71.

LEADING JOCKETS: B Dunwoody - 20 wins, 69 rides, 29%, 4312.41; M Dwyer - 17 wins, 110 rides, 15.6%, 450.09; D Bridgwater - 11 wins, 39 rides, 28.2%, 458.89; A Magaire 11 wins, 52 rides, 21.2%, -£20.63. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: King Est (viscoed, 12.45), EuroBak Shadow (3.25).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Drakewrath (12.45) has been sent 278 miles by R Bartlett from Arctric, Strathelyde; Tibetan (1.45) sent 342 miles by Lady Herries from Angmering Park, West Sussen; Rough Quest (2.15) sent 221 miles by T Caney from Beare Green, Sur-

15); Miyer (Spring (1.44) seri (216) myllift of at Libe (total histographics) heatur
15	40.4	ET CY LIEI ENG POL I COE GTI INEUTE MOMORE LI INNI E ICI AGG
[-	L2.4:	ST HELENS COLLEGE STUDENTS NOVICE HUNDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m SAMAND (20) (D) DAgrum Controlled Lab Mar L Stude 4 11 6
17	D13.253	SAMMAND (26) ON TANAN OR CONSTRUCTION LINE STATES A 11 B SWARDS
Ιź	00-	ARTWORLD (USA) (233) (Major M Wasson) M W Easterby 8 11 0
Į ž	34	
13	~a	BOLLIN FRANK (32) (Sr Nei Westbrook) T Essenby 4 11 0B Handing
5	640	BRUMON (280) Online Ferry D Worker, 5 11 0D J Modest B
16	·P	CAURO PRINCE (7) (A K Collins) 1.) O'Nell 6 11.0
7		DALIKT (Superced and & Form Buildings Ltd) F Jorden 4 11 0
l s		DRAKEWRATH (12) (R A Berlett) R Berlett 6 11 0 D Ferlet
9		FASSAN (7) (MHOG Record) M Hammond 4 11 0
10	440-4	GILLEN (38) IJ Remon & Mr A Sherrath Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 0 6 Cable
11		
12		LASTO ADREE (588) (bles J Newell G Thomer 5 11 0R Democky
13		NEYLAKA (576) (Ars G S Rees) Capt J Wilson 9 11 0 D Walsh (3)
14		ORWHOUS RISK (12) (Mrs Haren Woodhead) E Ceire 5 11 0Mr P Musey
15		QUANSO (I, Miligary J Frederoid 4 11 0
16	- 40	SHARED RISK (37) (Grahem Brookstenk) J Norton 4 11 0
[17	02	STAD OF FERMAN (AS OF M Market) Market 5 11 0E Harbard (S)

18 63 STAR SELECTION (LA) IN M MILETEN J MARKE 3 110 19 042452 THREE WILD DAYS (22) (BF) (The My Syndicate) T Tate 4 11 0 ... martino, 11.2 Danset, 7-1 Commerc, 8-1 Bollin Franck, 10-1 Carlen, 12-1 Fesson 14-1 Shared Risk, 20-1 Lesto Adree, 25-1 others 1995: Crown Equaty 5 11 0 J F Titley 7-1 (Andrew Turnell) 14 can

1.15	PETROS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m
4F101-2	CLAY COUNTY (S6) (CD) (The County Set) M Hammond 11.12 0 R Gentity
	SOUND REVELLE (14) (D) (Nes G Abecassis) C Brooks 8 11 11
402/204-	SYBILLIN (632) (D) Ollarquesa de Morasales) J Rischraid 10 11 9
6/14494	NATIVE MISSION (599) (CD) (6 E Strouter) J Paparald 9 11 1
	POLITICAL TOWER (11) (D) (G RS Never) R Heren 9 10 13
	COLETY CHARMAIN MAD ITS ITS INCOME D. McCode 10 10 10 0

Minimum weight: 10st. Two handton weight: Cody Chepinin St. Stb.
BETTING: 11-4 Clay County, 3-1 Sound Reveille, 7-2 Political Yover, 8-1 Sybillia, 13-2 Native Mission, 33-1 Crafty Chapitan
1995: Easthorpe 7 11.1 J F Tiley 8-13 (Mas H Kright) 4 cm

FORM GUIDE

Political Tower comes here in top turn after Ayr and Newcastle victories and he finished a long way clear of CLAY COUNTY when fourth to Arctic Kinsman at Aintree on Grand Netional day. However, Clay County did not run up to his best in that event, which was run at a scorching pace and he did not help his cause when blundering five cut. He was eased once all chance had gone. This demine and consistent front-runer was some, see lengths clear, only to blunder badly and unsees at the final fence at Perth four weeks after Aintree – leaving Political Tower to best Wee River 19 lengths. Clay County meets Political Tower on 9th more favourable terms and lost no caste in defeat when besten 10 lengths by Super Taotics at Kermpton on his return. The winner clapped the two-mile course record that day and Clay County was giving him 33lb (including the riding allowance). Systiams and Netthe Mission, who are both trained by Janny FlotSerald, were both useful chasers but they have not been out for a long time and may need this outing.

Salection: CLAY COUNTY FORM GUIDE

1.45 TOTE MULTIBET HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 641-974 HOME COUNTES (1.0) (100) (Roy Chemas (Daton) Ltd) D Modiat 7 11 12 ____ D J Modiat 121/200- 5279638 GET (236) (C) (A Homest Young D Anold) Mis M Reveloy 7 11 8 ____ M Smith 1005-30 THENDING TWICE (USA) (15) (C) (D) (Ed McGrath) N Henderson 7 11 5 _____ R Jaineon EDN (343) (Jac) H 11 21110-0 ELATION (7) (R Word & Richards 4 10 2___

TULLY MURREY TOFF is 7th higher than when going in by three and a half lengths from Myt-To higher them were supported by the source and the succession of the same mark as nothing to confide took the corresponding event 12 months ago off the same mark as notey's, detending bridest and Sparty Gayle a head and a length and a quarter. Dudley Moffait's non-iner, who had the flat notes this year, finished a length third to Cheir's Song at Kempton in October on his return. He fall at the first next time but finished 21 lengths in front of Marchant. Ming when they were fourth and fifth to Space Trucker in the Fighting Fifth. Burst lamp, who along when they were routh and firth to Space Trucker in the Fighting Fath, states, and, who went in at Weshneby on his return and followed up at Ayr, (which divided Arizam and Daily Boy in a chiving finish here a fortnight ago. He is up 48b but can again figure. Sever Served's socred over two mass here and at tooley's trip at Antitree less term and she will be the better for last month's Chepstow third behind caste Sween. Theetam, a dozen lengths clear of the third when a three-length second to Our Kris on his hundling debut at Newbury 13 months ago, went one better at Sandown in January on his only other start. Many Raveley rurs Unicle Doug, twice successful on the Flat this year but well bestern against Sechicia at Newbostle 11 days ago, and Express Gift, whose three wirs in 1994-95 included one here and who had an outing on the Flat at Doncaster last month.

Selection: TULLYMURRY TOFF

2.15 TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m 1 71116-1 ONE MAN (42) (CD) () Hales) G Richards 8 11 10 1 7/11/6-1 ONE MAN (4/2) (CD) () Heles's G Richards 8 11 10 R Destroomly 2 12/11/2-1 MANDHEN LAD (27/8) (C) () Shee) Ales J Planer 7 11 4 R Parent 3 FSP-20 COMENTS EE BETTER (1/4) (CD) (R A S Whithis IC Bencis 9 11 2 D Gallagher 4 47/15/3-2 EVEN BUE (15) (Mar C) Bacci D McCall 8 10 12 D Whith 5 112/12/3 KADI (SER) (1/8) (J E Brown) D McHotson 7 10 12 R Johnson 6 654440 QUBCAL CROSSETT (4) (Mar Nicella Wicothest) E Caire 11 10 12 Mar P Marrey 7 22F121- ROVER QUEST (25/9) (D) (A T A Waters) T Casery 10 10 12 A Thornton 7 7 doctored BETTENS: 4-5 One Man, 5-1 Nighthen Lad, Kraff, 7-1 Rough Quest, 15-2 Condot Be Botter, 25-1 Brun Black, 500-1 Quickell Crossett 1998: One Man, 7-1 (2 M Daver 1-3 C Richards) 5 dec

1995: One Man 7 11 2 M Dwyer 1-3 (G Richards) 5 can

Rough Quest will be racing for the first time since he gained Grand National glory when defeating Encore Un Peu a length and a quarter, and, not suprisingly, the 10-year-did is thought likely to need this outing. Before Antree. Rough Quest had Couldn't Be Better 19 lengths addit in third when a four-length numer-up in the Gold Cup with ONE MAN, who went off the 11-8 isourite, a big top - thisting soth, 34 lengths off the winner. Gordon Richards' grey clearly was not himself at Chetaminan, weakening quickly between the last two. He had won his three preceding races lest assson, including today's prize by 11 lengths from Monsieur Le Care en noute to his scindilating King George triumph, and he has scored three threes over these tough fences in all. One Man looked as good as ever when coming home by seven lengths at Wetherby six weeks ago on his return and, despite giving weight all round, should again show the way home before going for a second King George on Boding Day. Neithber Lad scored four times from at starts lest term, including the Sun Aliance Chase and a nowcer' event over course and distance, but he has not raced since Chettenhem and he is Rively to need the run. Kedi, the 1995 Mittmay of Rete wotor, missed last season and will have come on for his opening third to Dublin Flyer at Huntington. Selection: ONE MAN FORM GLIEDE

the land double of the land about a grant i fire or i the day a grant and a second or it is a
2.50 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds
1 121/113- SNATTA CONCERTO (288) (John Cort) L Jungo 7 11 10 B Harding
2 3UF/43-0 BENCHY HEND (LA) (M Tabor) J.J. O'Nick 8 11 9
3 44000-2 ROBERTY LEA (14) (RP) (Mentale Cong Ltd) Mrs M Reveloy & 11.4
4 5410-11 JOCKS-CROSS (35) Des CB Harrison) & Richards 5 11 4 R Democraty
S 5408-22 HECH GRADE (24) (C) (John Pointon) Miss S Wilton 8 11 0
6 24-4313 DALLY BOY (14) (BF) (T H Bernett) T Festerby 4 10 13
7 14019: JOHANY KELLY (845) (C.) Murphy! Car 9 10 10
8 056-513 MICK THE BEAK (7) (SI' Micholas Wilson) John R Upson 7 10 8
9 2021-4F THURSONY MICHT (8) (R Hagged) J Roserald 5 10 8
10 11/08-P4 FIGST THOUGHES (12) (W H Dott) D Gardotto 9 10 7

BETTMO: 11-4 Jocks Cross, 5-1 Daily Boy, 11-2 Sents Night, 10-1 High Grade, 12-1 Nick The Benk, 16-1 other 1995: Greet Eastby 5 10 7 R McGrath 7-1 (N Stores) 14 ran

[3.25	STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS CONDIT EYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 a	PONAL JOCK- idded 2m
		SARG CEL (USA) (24) (CD) (Tam Racing) F Joston 8 11 10	
2	33/1-452	ALBRURN BOY (11) (D) (G E Shouler) M W Easterby 9 11 3	P Middler
3	121213	SUAS LEAT (32) (D) (Mrs J M Davenoor) J Jefferson 6 11 2	M Novice (3)
4	000-15	ETERNAL CITY (91) (SEF) (R Tyret) & Richards 5 10 4	N Derme (3)
5		TIP IT IN (10) (D) (Mas M Durning) A Smith 7 10 3	
		GRANDMAN (15) (F Hewer) D Morfatt 5 10 2	
7	D4P 63	EUROLINK SHADOW (35) (D McCain) 1) McCain 4 10 0	
		- 7 declared -	
BE	TIME 5-2	Saint Cloi, 11-4 Auturn Boy, 7-2 Tip it in, 5-1 Stees Lost, 8-1 Phones	d City, 16-1 Creed

1.50 DIKLER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 2f

LINGFIELD

12.10 Potentate 12.40 Five To Seven 1.10 Circus Star 1.40 Pleasure Shared 2.10 Bells Life 2.45 Strong Paladin 3.20 Season Splendour GODNG: Great to Soft - hurdle course; Good to Soft (Good in places)

- chase course.

Left-hand, undulating cou Lett-naral, undusting course.

Lett-naral, undusting course.

Program to wath-east of fown on B3028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjains course. ADMISSION: Members \$13, Fattersalls 51. CAR PARK; Club \$3; remainder free.

SIS RACINO

BIANRERED FIRST TRIE: Treasure Again (1.40), Have To Think (2.10) Sensonal Splendour (visored, 3.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: The Last Fling (1.40) won at Westerny on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Celtic Silver (12.40) & The Last Fling (1.40) have level send 238 miles by Mrs S Smith from High Follwark, West Yarkshire.

12.10 TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HAND-(CAP HUROLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 110yds 3/5050 KADASTROF (FR) (261) (D) R Diden 6 12 0

_ 6 declared -KITHIG: 4-7 Potentate, 6-1 Kadastrof, 7-1 Tarrock, 8-1 Court Nap. 10-

12.40 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f 110yds

1911 FP BO DOOMS BEST (14) G L MODE 7 12 0 Mr Attorior (7)
45723-3 SCOD RIDGA (49) 5 Moder 7 11 10 D Bridgender
52127-2 FTVC TO SEVEN (12) [B7) P Models 7 11 8 P Mide
11-432 MAYSARI (14) F Ref 8 11 4 T Maysari (15) F THE WIGGET MAN (27) (2) Mass L Bower 10 11 1 Maysari (17)

12 decisted - 12 decisted - 12 decisted - 12 decisted - 14 decisted - 15 1.10 (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 added 3YO

14 REPARM (42) (0) (BF) N Tession-Dones 11 2 C Unevalve 233 A CMEF 700 FAR (5) R Rove 10 12 D O'Scillion BOX BOWNER (10) 5 Woodstan 10 22 M Richards S BON BOWDER (10) 5 WOODS at 2 A March 10 BISSERS & LAND 11 12 A March 10 12 A March 10 12 A March 10 12 D Bridge was 1 MR WRD (21) S Navines 10 12 D Bridge was 1 MR WRD (21) S Navines 10 12 D Bridge was 1 PROPRIET (10) N HOTERS AND IN MARCH 10 7 Death Spread ADMINISTRATING ASSOCIATION 10 7 W McFerland SALLY'S THRIS J MAJOR 10 7 W McFerland SALLY'S THRIS J MAJOR 10 7 W McFerland SALLY'S THRIS J MAJOR 10 7 W McFerland 10 MAJOR 10 MAJOR

1.40 LOWNDES LAMBERT DECEMBER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £20,000

50-1111. THE LAST FLINB (7) Mrs 5 Smith 6 11 4 ... Richard Gas 3 AM SMISM (21) Nost TC Trance 8 11 0 D Las 83124-11 BANNERSO (25) (07) 5 Spening 7 11 0 D Bridgen RE060-2 POODBROKER STAR (14) J Sidned 6 11 0 Asp

— 11. declared — BETTNR: 3-1. Piconure Shared, Pharanter, 5-1 The Last Filing, 11-2 Buck-toune Soy, 7-1 Trusture Again, Sankhead, 8-1. Punters Overhead, 18-1

2.10 TH GROUP LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m

- 8 Acciared BETTING: 5-2 Seconds Strong, 7-2 Bells Life, 4-1 No Pain No Galo, 6-1
Have To Think, 13-2 Follow Countyness, 10-1 Sheer Ability, 12-1 Terao,

2.45 BIFFA RECYCLING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 54651 CHAPILLERE (FR) (681) T Thomson Jones 6 10 12.... CRANE HELL (389) P Hobbs 6 10 12

NO MATTER R Rose 5 10 12 ______ 50-6 STRONG PALADOL (24) J GRod 5 10 12 _ 50.6 STRONG PALADIN (24) | Citied 5 10 12 _____ L Aspel (3)
3433-5 THE PROBS (21) (RF) N Treaton-Doubs 5 10 12 ... L Houselyn
0004 THI PAN ALLEY (SEC) D Geneel 7 10 12 _____ P McLoughin
4 WHISTIBLEN (2005 Colors 6 10 12 4. WRISTBURN (200) C Marin 6 10 12 ______ Relitor 0/3009-P. SEMRE MIST (10) Mrs P Duffeld 5 10 7 _____ W McFarland 0. HI MARSEE (14) Mrs Mexica Jones 5 10 7 _____ Derek Byron ndi: 9-2 Mythical Apartonic, 5-1 Marching Marquis, 11-2 Strong Pal 8-1 Crane Hill, 10-1 Johns Justice, The Proces, 12-1 others

3.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 3f 110yds

3451-62 SENSONAL SPLENDOLE (9) M Pipe 6 12 0 ____ C Terrenty V 2115-54 TICKERTY'S GEF (10), (0) G L Moore 6 11 SM Athenier (7) V 51-567 STONEY WALLEY (9) I Invites 6 11 0 ____ A Magnite 5 15 567-22 MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS Memby Jones 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS Memby Jones 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS Memby Jones 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS Memby Jones 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS Memby Jones 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMby JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMby JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH THANKASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 _____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 _____ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ______ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ______ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ______ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 _______ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 _______ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 ________ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 4 _________ A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 A MOORE DASH (813) MS MEMBY JONES 6 10 A 5 deciented — 5 deciented Lee, 4-1 Stoney Valley, 5-1 Tickerty's GRt, 5-1 More Tolkin Themcask, 34 Nover Forgatten.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. 12.15 FORGIVEN FORGET MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 3f 110yds O DOMANIE DE PROM (FR) (12) Mrs L Taylor 5 11.8.... POSO-U2 ROYAL HAND 658 R Ameon 6 11 8... - 9 decimed - . BETTRIE: 7-4 Dujues Mondow, 2-1 Art Prince, 6-1 Colleve Stor, Sim gitz, 12-1 Reets's Mill, Royal Hand, 16-1 Old Rectscood, 25-1 others 12.45 RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICERS AS-SOCIATION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds ADVANCE EAST (38) (D) M Dods 4 11 5 ... 1200 MARIE (29) (D) Ma M Review 4 11 5.

12.15 Art Prince 12.45 Endo

Lieutenant 3.30 Bold Action GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

AO-45 ROTHARE (LIG) B Rothwell 4 10 12....... SEA VICTOR J.I. Hexis 4 10 12...... TALATHARH (FR) D Micheleon 4 10 12..... 11 TEM PAST SIX Mango Want 4:10:12 10 Tions 12: 10 Tions 12: 12: 15:14 Tions 14:10:12 16: C Bosser (3) - 12 deciend
BETTIME: 100-30 Endowment, 4-1 knio, 6-1 San Victor, 7-1 Tal 15-2 Nikrammy Castle, 10-1 Advance East, 12-1 Ten Part Str., 26-1 Rising mar, 25-1 others

1.20 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSOR-SHIP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f ALESTO CHETLE COMPAGEOUS (1.0) Lady Hardes 9 12 D.,

Away 1.50 Scotton Banks 2.25 Elpidos 3.00 Flight 282-354 PRES GURBER (12) M Hammond 8 10 0 Mr C Bottner (3) on weight: 10st. True handcap weights: Alusth ■ Course is it of nown off the ASSS (M18 Jcts 3 & 4). Bus link from Donessier Central station. ADMISSION: Clab £14; Grand-stand £8; Family Enclosure £3 (under-16s free all enclosures). BETTERS: 6-4 Scotton Banks, 5-2 Montherstagely, 7-2 Plans Gurmer, 4-1 2.25 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 11,0yds 1 144FR6 NON VINDAGE (7) (D) 14 Chapman 5 11 10 ... W Wo 441-111 70M BRODE (21) (D) I House's labrace 511 8 __R Supple 00-440 THORRITON GATE (7) (CD) T Example 7 11 6 __R Thornton (S) 111-354 ELFEDOS (7) (D) 14 Houseon's 4 11 0 ____ Mr C Bonney (3) – 6 declared – že, 5-1 Thornton Gate, 6-1 Elpidos, 8-1 Non Vi 3.00 BURROUGH HILL LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 110yds

SETTING: 5-4 Country Star, 2-1 Flight Uentenant, 11-4 Solden Hello, 15-1 3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW NH

FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 110yds BANKER COURT M W Eminor 4 11 4

CAMERLOW D Brennan 5 11 4... EASTOLETE W McHadum 4 11 4, O JEROSES PROSPECT (33) J J O'Neil 5 11.4. _R MoGrath (5) _R Mastery (3) PRAR SMOOTHER J RoGerald 4 11 4... 6 REVOLT (11) TEssenby 4 11 4 Mr K Dunlop (7) 0 TAKDAN JOY (17) J Moore 5 11 4. 025- THE SHARROW LESSEND (232) | September 4 11 4.

Crystal Spirit, racing for the first time since the 1995 Grand National, emerged with plenty of credit when finishing third to Cumbrian Challenge and Callison Bay at Doncaster yesterday. He was three lengths behind the runner-up, who was in turn narrowly beaten by the winner. Ian Balding, who trains the nine-year-old, said Crystal Spirit will now be aimed at the Betterware Cup at Ascot next Saturday. Cumbrish Challenge, trained by Tim Easterby, challenged over the final two fences and just outspeeded Callisoe Bay on the run-in. The trainer's father, Peter, said: "This horse has been a great serwant though he's a bit of a monkey. Last year he lost his confidence after running at Liverpool."

240 Addington Boy (nb) 1,00 Lord Dorcet 3.15 General Pongo 1.35 Carole's Crusader 2.05 Large Action 3.45 Karshi

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in pixes).

Left-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Upfull run-in.

Course is one mile north of town off Ad-5. But link from Cheitenham rail station (served by Bristol. Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club & Tamersails combined \$12 (tuniors, 18-24 years \$3, Students \$6); Foster's Enclosure

ELEADING TEAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Fipe — 31 winners from 243 runners gives a success ratio of 12.8% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £72.48; K Balley — 18 winners, 87 rimmers, 21.6%, -\$13.73; J Gifford — 18 winners, 105 runners, 17.8%, +256.73; N Benderson — 18 winners, 115 runners, 11.3%, 548.18.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: E Dunwoody — 38 winners, 202 rides, 18.8%, +55.33; A Maguire — 25 winners, 167 rides, 15.0%, 574.72; J Osborne — 24 winners, 160 rides, 15.0%, 555.17; N Welliamson — 22 winners, 88 rides, 26.0%, +235.43.

HINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Royal Mountbrowne (2.30) won at Punchestown hat Saturday; Southers Nights (12.50) won at Towrester less Saturday. Lowe Distrance Eunnerse (2.50) are 250 miles by J Charloon from Stockefield, Northumberland; Addington Boy (2.30) sem 230 miles by G Richards from Greystoke, Cumbria.

1.00 GEORGE STEVENS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £6,665

ETTRIC: 7-4 (Chreet, 9-4 Lord Dorcet, 3-1 Dancing Paddy, 9-2 Sound Revell

1.35 BRISTOL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) 6.15,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £9,960 \$15,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £9,960 \$\frac{1}{2}\$

1 5P/211 SUPPLIES (7) (0) U Pems; K Bairy 5 11 4 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ HeNell

2 02,241 SPACEME 600 (1/8) (7) Garden Bainet 7 11 4 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ G Upton

3 060-112 TARRS BRIDGE (1/8) (The Tuesday Syndexier C Marn 5 11 4 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ G Upton

4 042-6 PM A CHEPY (1/5) (7) Landlet 6 Bairing 6 11 0 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ B Featon

5 04 100 FOR TURNING (24) (That's F Engil 0 Sherwood 5 11 0 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ B Velocity

7 FR-0112 (1/18) SANARD (27) (0) (8) G Sherwood 5 11 0 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ M Grittins

8 3442-11 CAROLES CRISSIORE (22) (0) (A/s C Shapeon's) D Carolido 5 10 13 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Bridgey

9 245241 GALAIASORI JANE (12) (8) L Simmony P Nethols 5 10 9 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ M A Pitzgand \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Getting \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Substance (1/2) (1/

With SOUTHERN NIGHTS and Carole's Crusader chasing har-lincks, something has got to give and it might be the more that does. Southern Nights has made rapid progress this season and had Spaceage Gold more than 1.1 lengths back in fourth when scoring over this trip at Towcester three weeks. The winning margin of five lengths would have been far greater if his saddle had not started to stip and he followed up with enother good performance by giving 10th to Fine Sir there over three furlongs less there has Saturday, Fine Sir had chesed home the subsequent winner Fonest livery in his previous race and that is smart form. A measure of how last Carole's Crusader is improving is that she got back up to beat Flying Gunner by a short-head at Stratford (2m 6f 1.10)off first time out this season, yet had no trouble after making all to draw right away and beat him by nine lengths over this trip at Accot three weeks later. Before his fourth behind Southern Nights at a Towcester, Spaceage Gold had stayed on to be second to the easy winner Duesn's Award at nester, Spaceage Gold had stayed on to be second to the easy winner Queen's Award at Newbuy. There is not much doubt he will reverse that form on 18to better terms, yet Farms Bridge ought to be able to average his tength defeat by Spaceage Gold over three and a quarter miles here test month with his 8th put. Selections SOUTHERN NIGHTS

	2.05	BONUSPRINT BULA HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2 £35,000 added 2m 1f	•04
lı	123/11-1	LARGE ACTION (13) (CD) (BT Sement-Brown) O Shenwood 8 11 8	Osborne
Ιī	//SP4-51	MUSE (22) (C) (White Horse Racing Ltd) () Esworth 9 11 B	P Holler
3	13P3F0-	PRIDWELL (238) (CD) Upres, Berstock and Fleet Partnersho) M Pipe 6 1	14_C Name
4	140	RIGHT WIN (277) (Const Kavenagh) R Hannon 6 11 4	N Williamson
ł 5	124 F13	THEATREMORLD (LS) (Mrs. John Magnet) A O'Brien (vf) 4 11 2	C F Swan
8	131/143	BBMSEY (343) (Adam) Ryan) R Aleburg 6 11 0	G Bracker
17	/P24/60-	MOORISH (308) (D) (Adrian Propertical) J White 6 11 0	M A Filzygeniá
18	402212	MORSFOCK (12) (Mrs M Farbarry R Hodges 6 11 0	S Něka
i		- 8 declared -	
BE	TTHE: 11:	10 Large Action, 5-1 Pridwell, 7-1 Theatreworld, Right Win, 8-1 Biens	y, 10-1 Mass

It is just possible Birmsey could upset LARGE ACTION on this faster ground and mini-mum trip, although after Lerge Action's impressive comeback in Ireland after a year off, Other Sherwood's eight-year-old seams as good as ever. However, he will need to be be-cause two miles on fast gound really does not suit him these days. If the Champlon hu-die was run over two-and-a-haif miles he would probably have won instead of being placed in 1994 and 1995. He had Theatreworld (4th worse in) strugging in his wake back in the secondary of the day of the secondary with Miles of half and a door need to the place of a secondary. in 1994 and 1995. He had Theatreworld (Ath worse in) struggling in his wake back in third at Palryhouse (2m 4f) 13 days ago and, with Muse to help set a good pace, his class could carry him to a second success in this race. Barkey, so impressive in winning a handicap on feet ground at Antiree 13 mornts ago, went up 16th for that, yet still put in a good run when fourth to Chief's Song at Sendown next time. Pridwell, subsequently third in this year's Champion Hurdle, was three lengths behind at Sendown and 5th worse in here. That is too simplistic a waw, of course, but Blineay was third behind Coller Bay at level weights at Sendown ext time and is reported fit for his first outing in 11 mornts. Right Wiln was a classy sort on the Flat and was being talked of in Champion Hurdle terms efter winning at Sandown first time out last season. That proved ambitious and he also needs out in the ground to be seen at his best. Selections LARGE ACTION

2.40 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £60,000 added 2m 5f

- 10 declared EFITRIC: 9-4 Addington Boy, 5-1 Anabatic, 6-1 Old Bridge, 7-1 Royal Mounthrown
Matt, 8-1 Behadarian, 1-1 Go Universal, 12-1 Bertone, 14-1 All For Luck, 25-1 Nort

It is hard to get away from ADDINGTON BOY after his fine comeback behind Challenger Du Luc and Strong Promise in the Murphy's here four weeks ago. Not only did that show last assoon's impressive progress had been maintained, he would have finished closer if he had not been put off when Dublins Piyer slipped up on the final bend. Despite all that, Addington Boy still finished five larging clear of Anabatic (3b better In), who did not appear to get up the hill ofter being in contention coming to the last, while Big Martt, the surprise favourite, was taked off in sixth after failing to handle the altipoery surface. It could be the still before to work or story of the proper to the order of records here. surprise favourite, was tailed off in soon ratter failing to hance the suppersystematic. It could be than Big Matt is worth another chance, but he does not have the best of records here. Anabestic apart, there is a strong litish challenge from Royal Mountbrowne and Belved-eries. These belo met buce less month with the result going Royal Mountbrowne's way each time. The margin was only the lengths at Commel, however, and a 12th pull gives Belvederian a good each-way chance. Apparently he will be happier with this faster ground, despite a winning record to the contrary. So Universal, must improved less season, well for a long way unto talling at Newbury on his reeppearance, but the bugger danger is Old Bridge, test season's Mildmay Of Flete winner.

Selections ADDINGTON BOY

3.15 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m 5f

FORM GUIDE On his test vieit here IMPERIAL VINTAGE was left to finish alone in a match, his skith win of the season, though the danger this time is that General Pongo might be the one left in splendid lookston if Impenial Vintage repeats his mishap at the very first at Lacester on Wednesday, Granted a clear round, though, he should best General Pongo on this tast ground. The letter's Bengor win, much improved as it was - he is also open to plenty of improvement - came with plenty of cut in the ground.

Selection: IMPERIAL VINTAGE

3.45 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 4f 1111-11 MANDYS MANTPHO (15) (C) (D) (John Pacient) J Geford 6 11.7 P Hills 11-3112 SEMENTY PRAYER RISA) (15) (Are Engar Scott A) F Bruce Affer 6 11.7 Chip Miller 1052F1. ASHNYELL 80Y, 221 (A) B S Rendey P Hobbs 5 10 12 N

— 4 declared — BETTING: 6-4 Mandys Marxino, 7-4 Astronii Boy, 3-1 Seronity Prayer, 8-1 Kershi

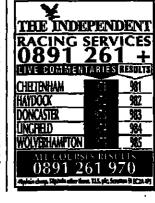
iting maintained his unbeaten record at Newbury on his rea Membrys Membro manthined his unbeause record at newbury on an reeppearance, his Sereuity Prayer jumped the third isst cleanly over two miles here text month that record would definitely have failen, as it was by only half a length that the American challenger failed get up. KARSHI has a good chance of toppling both. Lest year's strong-finishing third behind triubande in the Sun Allamoe Novices' Hundle reappeared at Warwick a for-night ago and, having gor the better of his battle up front with Aytoon's Choice, was sur-posed in the first 100 yearts by Balanak. Ashwell Boy comes well in the inclining if he is straight enough on his first run in seven months. Selections (KARSH)

TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP - 10-YEAR-TALE de la companya de la 2.9:10000 72 41 W 74 11.2 441 10000 A 1 3 2 4 4 12 0 0 2 107 107 104 104 3 11 10 114 102 102 X office for the Et state: Ferourites - 53.25 Second Pavoncies +65.50 Percentage of viewers placed 181, 2nd or Std in previous tuce: 75% food wisees: Kings Founday 7-4 (1991) priced without Program Down 14-1 (1993) ... (op trainer: Capt 7 A Penter (2) Pegend Bay (1985); Dicto Pyer (1994) pop Jochey: 8 Papel (2): Pegydi Bay (1983), Quain River (1994), Sabandoned: P. dulled up: 1 Jolef texcerter

New race order

Cheltenham has altered the running order of today's Tripleprint Gold Cup meeting and put back the start by 10 minutes in a bid to make the Chan-

nel 4 coverage more attractive. It has swapped the four-runner George Stevens Handicap Chase, which was due to open the five-race TV programme, with the Bristol Novices' Hurdle, which has drawn a field of



Brighton are 11 points adrift at the bottom of the League, heavily in debt, soon to be homeless and facing a revolt from their own fans. Steve Gritt was offered the job of managing them this week. **Glenn Moore** asked him why he accepted

The man with the hardest job in football

itting in Steve Gritt's new of-fice vesterday afternoon, you have to ask him. "Why?" The answer is brutally honest.

But it is not any old job. Manag-ing Brighton and Hove Albion is widely regarded as the toughest job in football. Liz Costa, vice-chair of Brighton's Supporters' Club calls it the "hardest job any manager has

She may be biased but she is not exaggerating. This morning Brighton are 11 points adrift at the foot of the Third Division. They have large debts, they lose their ground in May, and the support is alienated. There is not even the safety net of a rebuttal for the Conference champions. Brighton are more likely to be rejected by the Conference and sent straight down to the Dr Martens' League - and probable closure.

So, 48 hours into the job, is the affable Gritt having second thoughts. "I'm finding it OK so far," he said brightly. "The players have re-sponded very well. The first morning each of us were testing the water, sitting back and getting used to one another. This morning I've

BOTTOM OF THERD DIVISION

P	w	D	L	F	Α.	.P13
Exeter22	7	5	10	21	28	26
Doncaster22	7	3	12	24	33	`24
Mansfield21	5	9	7	21	22	24
Leyton 021	6	6	9	16	19	. 24
Hereford22	6	5	11	23	31	23
Darlington _22	6	4	12	30	39	22
Hartlepool21	6	4	11	23	28	22
Brighton22		4	15	18	42	11
					•	

had to do a lot of work and they have

When I left Charlton [he was joint-manager with Alan Curbishley before being sacked 18 months ago] it was the first time I have been out of work and out of football. I have been very keen to get back. When the chance came up, even though it was here with all the problems, I felt it was a chance I could not turn

The "problems"... a brief recap in case any of Michael Knighton's alien friends have just returned from Mars. Thirteen years ago, as Gordon Smith so evocatively recalled in these pages a month ago, they were a shot away from beating Manchester United in the FA Cup final. That came at the end of four seasons in the old First Division and engendered hope of a quick return.

Instead they slipped through the divisions and into the red, imperiled by bad performances on the pitch and at the bank. The historic but ageing ground - parts of it look more like the derelict West Pier than a football stadium – has been sold and the proceeds apparently squandered. Having hought the club for £56.25 the chairman, Bill Archer, spends his time in Lancashire and refuses to sell to a consortium backed by supporters. Hove Council and McAlpine.

The supporters have thus run a



Ground control: Steve Gritt, the new Brighton manager, surveys his new domain at the Goldstone Ground yesterday

to concentrate solely on the football.

I have not come to get wrapped up in all the politics, football is my busi-

"People turn around and say,

You must get involved, surely? But

I made it clear at the interview that

I have not come here to be anybody's

puppet. I have come here to work

with the players on the training

ground which is something I have

missed more than anything.
"I hope the supporters will get be-

hind the lads. If the players do what

I hope they will do, what I am try-ing to get them to do, and they roll

their sleeves up and match Hull for effort their ability will come through.

If the fans see that they are having

"I understand what the fans are

a go they will appreciate it.

cent. I've been there. I was at Charlton when we had to leave The Valley. They've been coming here for ears, it's a tradition thing. Suddenly that's been taken away from them. But if they can get behind the team the players will appreciate it. I'll ap-

The 39-year-old Gritt was aptly named. As a player he was a grafter rather than a stylist. He played 406 League games in a 16-year career. all but 26 of them with Charlton whom he represented in every position except goalkeeper. He was then co-manager for four years before being unexpectedly sacked after a change at boardroom level.

Given the resources Charlton were very successful under Gritt and Curbishley but recognition was slow.

relax a bit I think they can get results.
"It takes time but I have not go Nelson recalls Graham Taylor, when at Wolves, introducing Curbishley to that much time. It is not like com-ing in at the start of the season. John de Wolf with the line, "I don't think you've met Steve Gritt".

The shared roles, and Gritt's oneclub career, has made work hard to find. He even applied to be Charlton's youth team coach this summer. "I've kept myself busy going to games, that was a piece of advice I was given - 'be seen'. I also got my boots on again playing for Welling and Tooting and Mitcham but that got in the way of the scouting."

The scouting, and some youth coaching, was mainly for Gillingham need. I may have to do some wheelthough he recently watched Brighton

They looked capable of scoring, but also of letting them in. I want them to play with discipline but freeas well. If they can do that and

gages.
"But it is not just about money, it is about pride as well. One lad has already said to me when you are losing every week it is difficult to go home. It is like any job, if you feel you have done a good week's work, you have a weekend off and come in looking for another good week.
Football's no different."

thinking when is the next bonus coming? They've got families and mort-

Again, Gritt's been there, when Charlton nearly went bust in 1984. "I remember sitting in the supporters' club. We were waiting with all our gear to go to Blackburn and the game got called off because they thought we were going out of busi-

You wonder, Will I get paid? I could be out of work tomorrow, if that happens who will want me?' It can affect you but the resilience the players showed - that was the sea-

son we got promoted.
"Look at what Charlton have achieved, even though they had the rigmarole of leaving The Valle then going back to it. And what years ago they were two weeks from

'Somebody had to come in and get hold of the team otherwise the whole thing will crumble

going out of ousiness. Maybe the supporters here can look at that and take some encouragement.

Hopefully I can organise the

team to start getting results which is what it is all about. I've got experi-enced players who I will be looking to to set and example and some good youngsters. I'm told the underlying crop are very good so, on the pitch, the future looks hopeful."

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STOLE GIVE !! Midro Billiage.

Ravanelli tells

of his Boro t

el'al

But which pitch? We now wark across the Goldstone for the photographs and Gritt recalls; "I've had some blinding games here. We played in front of 35,000 here

That is the potential, realising it is another matter. Just over two years -ago Pinterviewed the then-Brighton manager, Liam Brady, Brighton had nearly made the Second Division play-offs in May, attracting crowds of 15,000. Then they had beaten Premiership Leicester in both legs in the Coca-Cola Cup. The subsequent upbeat interview ran under the line 'Happy days are returning to

So, no rash predictions from me this time. Only that Gritt has his work cut out. When the photographer and I wished him luck as we parted we meant it. He will need every bit.

No 196 **Bristol football** by Mark Wenham

Down here in the West Country we may lack the cultural sophistication of the inhabitants of The Eternal City", or "The Smoke" but we beat them pointless when it comes to pithy nicknames for a hometown Bristol - the Graveyard Of All Ambition" may not be the sort of slogan to launch a car stick-

The attractions of other activities has been the main reason our sports teams have underachieved to consistently over the last decade, none more so than our two football clubs, City and Rovers, Their main contribution to the nation's favourite game has been to supply the Premier League with a stream of centre-halves giggle in his sleep. Rennie, Peacock, Newman, Scales.

pub, and occasionally try to set fire to each other's stadiums.

enough to ensure another sellout crowd for tomorrow's derby at Ashton Gate.

campaign to oust Archer and his

chief executive, Derek Bellotti. Be-

fore today's match with Hull - who

have similar problems of their own

- they will release 1,000 balloons in

Hove Park before resuming their cus-

tomary abuse of Bellotti at the

It is not the ideal environment to

work in. Costa even greeted Gritt's

appointment with the comment: "We didn't want anybody to take the

job. We wanted people to say they can't work with the current board."

with the board," Gritt said, "Some-

body had to come in and get hold of

the team otherwise the whole thing

say it is crumbling anyway but that

"It is not a question of working

"I'm sure a lot of supporters will

Historically, allegiance to each team depended on which side of the River Avon you lived, but it has become increasingly clear to me that City and Rovers fans are completely different personality types. City fans are basically delu-

sional and share the happy conviction that good times are just around the corner. This delusion has its roots in a Sleeping Giant complex, which stems from having spent a short spell in the old First Division, possessing an excellent stadium, a manager who played in Serie A, and a chairman who played keyboards for the Pet Shop Boys. This feeling of superiority handily ignores the fact that for the last century there has rarely been more than one division between Bristol's two protagonists.

Rovers supporters, conversely, live according to the premise that if you expect nothing from life then you'll never be disappointed. This pessimism has been founded in recent years on a lack of money, and the lack of a decent ground, both conditions that seem set to last for the forsceable future.

Time for a prediction on the big game. Joe Jordan has created a brand new City team through some astute signings, and has fashioned them into a creative attacking side that are top scorers in their division and good bets for promotion.

Rovers are the usual mix of ex-non-Leaguers, callow youths and pros on the downward slide. They play route one, are desperately low on confidence, and rely on a sound defence to compensate for their lack of any proven goalscorer.

The result therefore, should be a formality. One-nil to the



Group Seven Group Eight
Macdaily Foreign (12.0)
(at Grade include Swele)
Group Mine **FA Carling Premiers**

TEAM SHEET Liverpool v desbroath: LDLLD Emerson makes a Middlesbrough comeback - his first Premiership appearance

Sunderland Control v Chelsea FC

Last season: No corresponding features. Last five League matches Sunderland LLDWL; Chelsea WDDLD.

Now Wimbledon have influence. all they need is more friends

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Christmas is one of the busiest times

games. It does not give much time

to work with players because obvi-

ously they have to resuperate. It is a careful juggling act. I have piled a

load of information into them this

morning - only time will tell how

How much will depend on what I

"I've got some money available:

"The situation has not helped, nor

has the fact that they have not won

many games. It starts to grind you

down. You think when is the next

point coming? A lot of them will be

much as gone in.

ing and dealing.

to come in, it is games, games,

Wimbledon have London to themselves this weekend, at east in terms of the Premiership, and can cut Arsenal's lead to a single point by beating Blackburn at Sellmirst Park. Even allowing for the counterpull of Christmas shopping, if Joe Kinnear's team cannot draw a crowd today then Dublin may not be such a daft idea after all.

The Dons' average atten-dance of 15,500, while higher than that of their landlords, Crystal Palace, is inflated by the fact that they have already played Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham. The figure for Blackburn should be a true reflection of whether their football is winning the new friends it deserves.

Vinnie Jones will be absent, leading the land of his distant forefathers, as Wimbledon strive to maintain the most unexpected championship challenge since Ipswich triumphed in 1962. Blackburn, 17th but stirring, learned yesterday that Tony Parkes is prepared to continue as caretaker/manager until the summer, when Sven Goran Eriksson is free to join

don on goals scored, receive Middlesborough anxious to unprove on a record of two points

of players the Hearts manager,

Jim Jefferies, has signed in his

The Aberdeen defender Col-

in Woodthorpe faces severe ceived.

16-month tenure to 17.

Phil Shaw examines the weekend's action in the Premiership and Nationwide League

home. They think they have problems: Boro have lost 22 and won just seven of the last 40 League games.
The errant Emerson, who

looked world-class when Bryan Robson's men won on the oth-McMapaman, as Sheffield

breath for a repeat of August's

As Eric Cantona has discovered, hell hath no fury like a Leeds fan scorned, John Scales can expect similar vilification if Gerry Francis gives the England defender his Spurs debut at El-

ball Association after snatching

Scales' decision to reject

side's rugged approach of late, although the stronger likelihood is that Spurs plan to switch to a three-man defence. Scales excelled in such a system at Liverpool, as does Colin Calderwood with Scotland. George Graham at last has a new face in his squad, though supporters may have been un-

Chelsea, having vindicated Graham's view that they would not fancy Leeds in the wind and rain, venture even further north tomorrow, to the sub-Arctic outpost that is Sunderland. The southern softies will, doubtless, be wearing gloves and thermal vests. As everyone knows, they do not have cold

In the First Division, Bolton no longer have the look of runaway champions, though a home match against Ipswich should enable them to keep their distance from Sheffield United, whose resurgence faces a stern examination at Oxford.

Brentford to fifth-placed Burnley. Even Turf Moor's tradi-tionally substantial support will be dwarfed, however, by the turn-out for tomorrow's Bristol derby, an occasion given added spice by Rovers' return to the

Meanwhile, Hull's visit to offers the bizarre prospect of

er campaign, but it's fair comment in a city where dynamism s spending less than three hours in a sunny beer garden. Mrs Emerson would like it here, especially when she realises how near we are to the golden sands of Weston-super-Mare.

guaranteed to make Shearer Dryden, Yates, Curle, Tanner, with inverage crowds last season of 8,000 for City and 6,000 for Revers, in a city with half a mil-

Given the presence of both teams in the Second Division. ion potential matchgoers, you could be forgiven for thinking that there is no great residual well of affection for football in Bristol. In fact puls are invariably packed for Premiership games and England internationals, and most long-term residents (i.e. people other than students) have an affinity to either City or Revers that is heartfelt enough to have engendered a typically robust metropolitan rivalry. Supporters rib each other at work. make light-hearted jibes at the oppositions' expense in the local

This antipathy is genuine

tomorrow...

Sunderland defender Scott (groin) has been ruled out. Melville will plan his second game in 24 hours after playing for Wales in the World Cup A below-strength Chelsea have Laboeuf suspended and Visili injured. er side of Stanley Park in September - their last victory - is set to return. Robson may also be tempted to man-mark Steve

Wednesday did so successfully. Roy Evans, dismayed that stopping the wandering wonder meant stopping Liverpool, could recall Stan Collymore and/or Jamie Redknapp to redress imbalance between functionalism and flair. But with the Teessiders desperate for "a" result" to stifle rumblings of disquiet over Robson's management, no one should hold their

land Road.

Liverpool, trailing Wimble-

Hearts sign Hamilton

Scottish football action from the Scottish Foot-

a yellow card from a referee as Hearts have completed the he was about to be sent off. signing of Scotland's Under-21 Woodthorpe had already striker Jim Hamilton from been booked by Martin Johnston Dundee for £200,000 and he during a reserve match against goes into the squad to face Kil-Dunfermline. When the referee produced the yellow card for a marnock at Rugby Park today. Hamilton has signed a three-year deal and brings the number

second time, the player grabbed it and threw it at the official. Woodthorpe has since been fined by Aberdeen for his action and the SFA have confirmed that the referee's report has been re-

from the last nine available at Leeds was, he claimed, based on football criteria. That raised the intriguing possibility of an ex-Wimbledon player having qualms about the Yorkshire

derwhelmed by the acquisition of Oldham's Gunnar Halle (what is it, incidentally, with Graham and Norwegians?).

weather in London or Italy.

The Second Division's outstanding fixture sends leaders

Brighton in the Third Division both sets of fans remaining outside the ground to demonstrate against the respective



'He's got too much skill for Spurs,' said our former hero Chris Waddle of one top foreigner linked with the club. Ouch, that hurts

It was Henry Kissinger who said: "I can't have a crisis; my diary is full next week"; how I wish Alan Sugar could say the same. There is a crisis at Spurs and let no one persuade you otherwise. Eleventh in the Premiership. a Jürgen Klinsmann lookalike up front and a £2.6m former Liverpool reserve on the payroll simply paper over the cracks which suggest that Spurs are being left on the shelf.
That classic Danny Blanchflower

quote about the game being "about glory, about doing things in style, with a flourish" has stuck to Spurs like a resolute man-marker. You see, it's always been their way. Just as foot-ball folklore decrees that Arsenal are dogged and dull (this season apart), Newcastle cavalier and Liverpool slick, so it's cast in stone that Spurs are flamboyant and flash, if too often flawed. That they no longer are constitutes a crisis down the Lane.

The problems on the field are as clear. A defence over-reliant on Sol Campbell (it has already conceded 25 goals, at this stage last season the figure was 13), a lightweight midfield, a lacklustre attack, a manager seemingly devoid of inventive ideas and (according to Sugar) a lack of fighting spirit so painfully manifest in the 6-1 defeat at Bolton. Gerry Francis should heed the belief of the former Tottenham striker Garth Crooks that, "entertainment has always been an important feature of Spurs' game which the fans demand. They can never get away from that. If they did,

understand the talk of "traditional Tottenham football" which I find hard to believe of a man who grew up watching the 1961 Double-win-ning side: "That sort of talk disap-

Well, can you imagine how it distresses fans brought up on Blanchflower, Gilzean, Hoddle, Waddle, Ardiles and Gascoigne to see players with the skill of McManaman, Berger and Bergkamp playing for the op-position: to see long balls being pumped forward on the ground where push and run" football was born; to see Armstrong running down the blind alleys where Chivers, Greaves, Allen and Lineker once hunted so profitably; and to see Arsenal playing Tottenham style football with Tottenham-style players? "He's got too much skill for Sours," said our former hero Chris

Waddle of one top foreigner linked with the club. Ouch, that hurts. However, the problems are not just on the field but also, as is customary with Tottenham Hotspur plc, in the boardroom where in five years there have been no trophies, no top Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

much as a whiff of the championship. Recently, the Tottenham Action Group, fearful that Sugar's reluctance to compete for players at the top end of the market is more short-sighted than prudent have urged Spurs fans to boycott White Hart Lane, club merchandise, Am-

any associated companies in the hope that the negative publicity will persuade Sugar either to rethink his

policy - or sell up and ship out.

If he did so, it would be at a vast profit. His 40 per cent stake, purchased for f8m, is now worth an es-timated £40m, with Spurs' value having quadrupled to around £100m. In his defence it must be said that he's restored business credibility to a club whose finances were in as much of a mess as Fergie's.

But the issue is not so much the money, but whether Francis will spend what money he's given on the kind of players who will bring back the glory days. His expenditure aldy amounts to £13m-plus on players (Fox, Sinton, Nielsen, Armstrong) whose impact has been as ineffectual as a long ball in a force nine gale. Meanwhile Steffen Iversen is pure po-

strad products and the products of tential, and Scales' influence remains

Waddle echoes the sentiments of many fans when he says Spurs need "a creative playmaker: a Hoddle, a Gascoigne, a player like Kinkladze", but acknowledges that Francis's task is not an enviable one. "To me," Waddle says, "the White Hart Lane crowd seemed spoilt. We could be 4-0 up, playing great and keeping possession and they'd be slow hand-clapping. moaning wanting more. And that was with Glenn and Ossic in the side."

But if the fans are demanding, tney're also long-suffering. Spurs is a club which seems to be in a state of perpetual crisis. In his 1990 preface to *The Glory Game* Hunter Davies admitted he'd grown to hate Spurs, had become infuriated by the bland programme, the accent on merchandising. "It seems that we were no longer a football club," Davies wrote, "just another branch of the leisure industry and what mattered most were the interests of the wealthiest supporters and most strident sponsors,"

Stuart Mutler, writing four years on in the final issue of The Spur, said: "Twe had enough... for the way we've been treated. Tottenham doesn't deserve players or fans anymore. Be wary. Be very wary indeed. For the Spurs are not what they seem."

Nor, in 1996's winter of discontent, a patch on what they used to be. Coming out of the hat away to Man United in the FA Cup third round draw was simply par for the course in a troubled season. It's scant consolation that the last time they played an FA Cup tie at Old Trafford, in 1980, a sublime Ardiles curier secured a 1-0 victory: because Ardiles is no longer around, and "Allan Nielsen's going to Wembley" doesn't have quite the same ring about it...

Test of mettle *awaiting Wales

Gary Speed believes Wales can avoid a repeat of last month's beating in the Netherlands when they tackle Turkey in

Cardiff today. Wales suffered a humiliating 7-1 defeat against the Dutch in Eindhoven but Speed is confident they can re-start their World Cup challenge with victory against the Turks.

In the last campaign we lost 5-1 in Romania but we put it behind us and so nearly made it to the finals in the last game," the Everton midfielder said.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, has tried to help his players forget the trouncing in Eindhoven by showing them a video compilation illustrating how well they have played since then with their club sides.

Wales, who have six points out of 12 at the half-way stage, will top Group Seven if they beat the rks and the Dutch draw in Belgium tonight, but they have played more games than their rivals and must win their last four matches to reach the target Gould set before the opening game against San Marino in June.

Gould will not make his team public until an hour before kick-off, and he was also reluctant to reveal which of his play-ers is having a fitness test this morning but Mark Hughes says he is ready to face the Turks with his shin wound protected by

Gould is committed to making changes at the back from the Eindhoven game with Mark Bowen dropped and Alan Neilson injured. Ryan Giggs' return, along with that of Hughes and skipper Barry Horne, will give Wales a much stronger look than they had in the Netherlands.

Iain Dowie aims to take his Premiership frustration out on Albania when he leads Northern Ireland in their World Cup Group Nine qualifier against Albania in Belfast. The West Ham striker will be boping to bring an end to the longest goal drought of his career.

He has only two Coca-Cola Cup goals to his name this season, and has not scored in the in the Hammers' 4-2 victory over Manchester City on 23 March.

Ravanelli tells fans of his Boro bliss

Fabrizio Ravanelli vesterdav reaffirmed his intention to stay with Middlesbrough as Milan became the latest club to be linked with him.

who is also reported to be interesting Manchester United, Liverpool, Aston Villa and Internazionale, declared his satisfaction with life on Teesside and does not wish to leave.

"I want to tell all Boro fans that, despite moving to a new club and a new country, I could not have hoped to have settled in better in the few months I have been here," he said.
"There is no way I want to

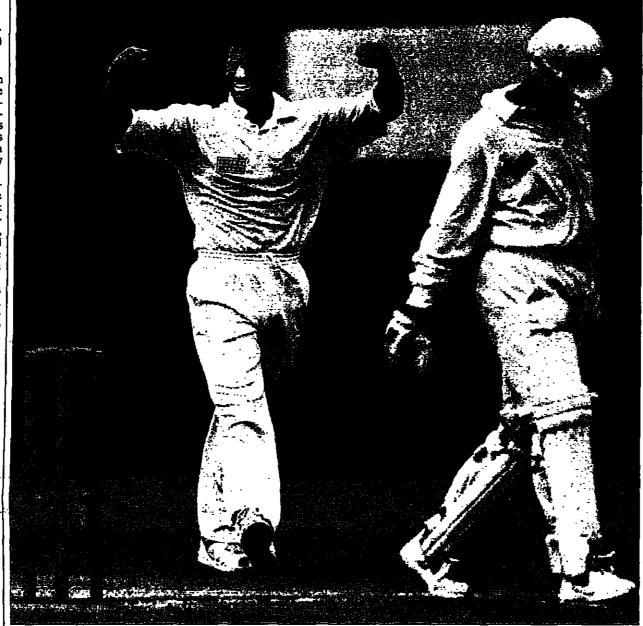
Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said: "I have not had one approach from any club concerning Ravanelli. He is 100 per cent happy. The only

problem is misleading articles in the press that upset him." Hi-tech shenanigans in Spain where an unidentified fan armed with a laser tried to dis-The 16-goal, £7m striker, tract the Seville keeper, Monchi Rodrgiuez, during Monday's 3-0 league defeat at Hercules.

Television pictures showed a small red light on the keeper's face at corners and free-kicks. Lasers can cause permanent eye damage and even blindness. "There was some kind of laser, but it didn't affect me,"

Monchi said. England are to play Brazil on 10 June in Lens as part of the four-team 1998 World Cup dress rehearsal which also features France and Italy.

Dates: 3 June France v Brazi, Lyon: 4 June tialy v England, Nantes: 7 June France v England, Montpelier: 8 June Italy v Brazi, Lyon: 10 June England v Brazi, Lens: 11 June France v Italy, Paris (Pari des Princes) (Hick-off times to be announced later).



Guy Whittall trudges off as Darren Gough celebrates dismissing the Matabeleland opener yesterday

Ankle operation for Hollioake on return

MYLES HODGSON

England A 230 & 106-4 Queensland 298

Adam Hollioake joined the list of England As injured tourists as the party completed their suc-cessful Australian trip with an expected draw here yesterday.

for 5, were dismissed for 298 with man as England shrugged off Craig White taking a career-best 6 for 66, and claiming his 150th first-class wicket in the process.

Hollioake will undergo an operation on his left ankie when he returns, joining Dean Headley (hip) and Mark Ealham (broken finger) in facing an anxious winter.

Hollioake's injury did not stop him from playing a major part in the tourists' success, both Queensland, resuming on 195 as a captain, bowler and bats-

Fall (cont): 8-232 7-275 8-277 9-299, Bowling: Headley 9-1-30-0; Chapple 23-7-59-1; Eahlem 5-2-16-1; Gais 16-4-200 White 29-2-5-68-8; Holliceke 12-7-29-1; Gai lan 14-3-33-0; Yaughan 2-0-9-0; McGrad 4-0-6-1; Bancher 6-3-8-0. their opening defeat against New South Wales 2nd XI to fin-

ish the trip with a nine-match ENGLAND A - Second famings
M A Butcher hit wellet b Prestwide
M P Vaugren e Maher b Muller
A McGrath e and b Muller UII De Aléin Turn.

Final day of four; Queensland won loss

SNELAND A - First landings 230 (M A Butcher 72; B N Creavey 6-70).

QUEENSLAND - First landings
(Overright: 195 for 5)

M P Mott c Hegg b White 23

S A Prestwide not out 23

S A Prestwide not out 22

B N Creavey c Hotfoles b White 0

P W Jackson low b McGrath 4

S A Muller b White 1

Extras (BXO), W., In (522) 33

Total (120-2 overs) 258

A McGrath c and b Muller 18
J E R Gelish not out 12
A J Holikoske b Preshudge 10
C White not out 11
Extras (0.1, 64, nb.2) 7
Total (for 4, 35 overs) 106
Falt: 1.13 2.59 3.68 4.82 106
Bot best hav K Hegg, A F Gles, G Chapple, D W Headley, M A Eathern,
Bowling: Muller 9-3-28-2; Cheevey 5-0-33-0; Maher 5-0-11-0; Preshudge 5-0-16-2; accesson 6-2-50; Mot 4-18-0; Seccombe 1-3-0-0.
Unspires: P D Parter and J F Torpey.

England's fielding handicap

Derek Pringle, in Bulawayo, previews tomorrow's first one-day international

Ever since England arrived here. they have been ferried around in a bus with "Girl's College" em-blazoned on the side. Whether or not it is an accurate reflection of what the Zimbabwean cricket authorities think of Michael Atherton's team, or simply the only available 20-seater in Matabeleland, tomorrow's one-day international promises to be anything but an easy ride for the

Since their elevation to Test status in 1992, Zimbabwe have met England three times in oneday cricket, beating them twice in low-scoring matches in Australia. It is a form of the game taken very seriously in these parts as evidenced by the prime spot given to tomorrow's pitch. By contrast the Test pitch is on the stranglehold in the opening 15 edge of the Queen's Park square, ready for the lesser business - as far as the paying public are concerned - of Wednesday's Test.

Unlike the longer game, oneday cricket is notoriously difficult to call, which may go some way to explaining its popularity. England's recent limited-overs form, series victories against India and Pakistan in the summer, suggests that perhaps they ought to start as favourites, although only seven of the players that won those series are here.

The England camp feel their preparations are now on course and that key players have all had good enough work-outs to be close to merging both peak fitness and form. Only Ronnie Irani's back twinge may prevent them from playing their first-but 15 runs is a lot to make up. choice XI, which would see Alec Stewart return to open the innings with Nick Knight, seeking his third successive limitedovers century, while Atherton drops to No 3.

Pinch-hitting is still anathema

to England's game plan. In any case the only suitable candidate for the role would be Irani, who if fit to fill the fifth bowling spot. will probably bat at seven. This suggests England will try and accelerate their scoring rate through a stroke-playing - as op-posed to big-hitting - middle order of Thorpe, Hussain and Crawley, the last two having made seven appearances in limited-overs internationals. In all, only four members of the party have played this type of match for England more than

five times. Bowling tactics, something of a lottery when early hitting is employed by the opposition, will revolve around Darren Gough and Alan Mulially creating an overs as they did against Matabeleland a week ago. That task may become more challenging if regular contact is made by the whirring bat of Andrew Waller,

the big-hitting opener.
The majority of the Zimbabwe batsmen favour the front foot, a preference difficult to counter in one-day cricket, with its outlawing of short-pitched bowling. England must not provide room to cut, a favourite shot here, and Andy Caddick and Robert Croft in particular, must guard against it.
Where Zimbabwe do over-

shadow the tourists is in the standard of their out-fielding, the brilliance of which is thought to give them a 15-run start. England may have several brilliant fielders and England will have to be at their best in all departments to make sure it is not a bandicap that costs them the game. POSSIBLE ENGLAND 12: "M A Atherton, N V Knight, 1A J Stewent, N Hussain, G P Thor-pe, J P Caswley, R D S Croft, D Gough, A R Cad-dick, A D Mullahy, C E W Stherwood.

IAAF tie huge | Symonds still prizes to drug campaign

The world's leading athletes will bave to carry an identity card next year to prove they have undertaken out-of-competition testing and are eligible to claim a share of increased championship cash prizes totalling Without the "elite" card, the

top 20 athletes in each discipline are not eligible for money on offer for the first time at the World Championships in Athens and all six other World Series events organised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. These cover indoor, cross-country, race walking, half-marathon and road relay championships. This will be the beginning of

new era for athletics," the IAAF'S president, Primo Nebiolo, said in Monte Carlo yestenday. "It is another means of combating doping, which we feel will be very effective. We are sping 'ves' to prizes, but 'no' to obeating in athletics."

The money will virtually world's best in each event.

Linford Christic is reported to be prepared to put his retement from international impetition on bold and take Oh his old rival Frankie Fredericks at an indoor meeting in France next February.

not a true **Australian**

Andrew Symonds' failure to make the starting XI for Australia A yesterday gives Gloucestershire fresh hope that he can play for them again.

Symonds, born in Birmingham but brought up in Australia, finally committed himself to playing for an Australia representative side this week. That decision initially backfired when he was made 12th man for the Australian second-string side who beat the West Indies by six wickets in a one-day match in

Melbourne. Last winter the 21-year-old batsman turned down a place on England's A tour, preferring to play state cricket in Australia and if he had played vesterday it would have meant he no longer

counted as an English player. The Test and County Cricket Board said yesterday that because Symonds was only 12th man in the A side's six-wicket win, his dual-nationality status still applies and he could yet play

for the county again.
Tony Brown, the TCCB's administration manager, said: The regulations state that a person must have played for whatever country to make him ineligible. But he didn't play, he was only 12th man."

was only 12th man."

one-bay March (Methourne): Was indea
217 % 9 is Chandropul 72: 50 overs: Austoka A 212 for 4 ii J Harvy 67no. D S
Lehmern 63no; 44.4 overs). Australia A was Athletics

Athletics

Britain's hopes have soared and then slipped for the European Cross-Country Charmpionships in Charlerol, Belgium, tomorrow. Jon Brown gave them a tonic by beasing Kerne's world charmpion, Paul Tergat, in Speni last weekend. But another key man, Kelth Cullen, has been suffering from 'flu and his team-mate, Spencer Barden, is facing two theft charges. Barden, who has been belied to appear in court at Maidstone next Friday, was seen as the fourth runner Britain needed to improve on last year's team bronze. Andrew Pearson, who won the individual bronze, Cullen (fourth) and Brown (sbith) could have (fourth) and Brown (shift) could have celebrated gold had they found anoth-er high finisher in that race at Alnwick. The former double national champion, Andrea Whitcombe, is back in the women's team after changing her mind about retiring, but the absence of Britain's No 1, Paula Radolffie, who has had a knee Injury and will not run un-til the Durham International at the end

til the Durham International at the end of the month, is a blow as the squad attempt to improve on last season's position of seventh.

EUROPEAN CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPI-ONSHIPS (Charleso), Belgium) Ment S Barden (REC). J Brown (Sheffeld). D Burnows (Birthfield). K Cullen (Cheinsbord). A Pearson (Lorgacod), C Stephenson (Cardel).

Women: L Bloot Shefsstow). H Hayling (Geograph). S Rigg (Warmson). A Whitcombe (Poriside). H Yelling (Hourstow).

Basketbafi

Basicerbail
Charles Berkley scored 11 of his 26 points in the first 6:24 of the game as the Houston Rockets raced to a 15-point lead and breezed to their ninth straight home win, 115-96, over the Detroit Pistons on Thursday, Clyde Dreaker scored 27 points, Hakeem Clajuwon added 21 and rookie Matt Maloney contributed 10 for Houston, which improved the league's best record to 19-2. Bankley gabbed eight rebounds and Dreaker hapded out eight assists for the Rockets, who have won four in a row and 13 of their last 14 games.

Mille New York 90 Galden State 79: Houston 115 Decore 96: Maleules 100 Seatie 97: Premit 95 Uses 97: Portant 98 Vancount 78: IA Clippers 97 Sen Antonio 94; Sacarmento 93 Deliza 96.

Cricinat
Stilling to the chosen the former Australian lest spinner Bruce tardey as their new coach and not the former England betsman Allan Lamb. Yardley, who

SPORTING DIGEST played 33 tests for Australia, replaces departing coach Dav Whatmore, who is

joining Lancashire. Pakistan, sent to an embarrassing 13 runs defeat by the Australian Cricket Academy in their rour-opening limited overs match vesterday, will consider celling for replacements after a rash of illness and injury. Captain Wasim Alvam and wicketkeeper Molin Khan both missed the match through laness as did the experienced batsman Salim Malik, who withdrew at the last moment with an ankle injury and Wasim's pace bowling partner, Waqar Younis, was rested ahead of Sunday's first World Series match against Australia. Coach Mushtaq Mohammad said the players may be suffering from the effects of a hectic schedule which has included tours to Singapore, England, Canada, Kenya and Sharjah since the World Cup in March. joining Lancastire.

Sened Armor 56), Australian Criciest Academy won by 13 runs.

SUPPRESPORT SERRES: Durbon (second day of four): Boland 123 and 66 for 2; Netal 196 (D Servicestain 80, H Williams 6-57, D Milms 4-64), Klamboriny (first day of four): Pres State 294 for 7 (B Disperser 50, L Wilderson 75, C Coven 63no) v Grupaland West. Cape four first day of four): Bonde 210 (M Boucher 71); Western Proxice 87 for 6 M kimi 4-50), Johannasburg (first day of four): Timeweel 302 for 8 (D Leing 128, A Hell 60) v Elettern Provence.

Medico, Peru and Denmark will take on the United States in US Cup '97 from January 17-22, with the round-robin tournament being staged in Pasadene

tournament being staged in Pasadenia and San Diego.

TRANSFERE John Scalas forfinder Liverpool to Tozanham: Asalay Mani (midheider) Liverpool to Tozanham: Asalay Mani (midheider) Liverpool to Huddersleid: Quansar Hallai (delender) Diety In Cambridge Utot, Gary Matthewa (bydetork in Stranser, Paul Puttamen Durdak in East Stranser, Adrian Randali (midheider) Vorta Diety. LOAN TRANSFERSE Mark färight Gorusut) Sheff Wed Mithatt; David Brightwell (midheider) et Branday in Stranser, Losie Donowa (furnard) Birmingham to Preinforought: Tawo Maning Midheider) Presion to Scarbocought. Paul Registe [midheider) Presion to Scarbocought. Paul Registe [midheider) Nats Courty Wigns. Polys-Matton Hassan TEOPHY (Mannecce):

After nine years at Valdemama, the Vol-vo Masters will stay in Spain next see-son at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Montecastillo course in Jerez. The move

had to be made as Valdemanta is stag-ing the Ryder Cup in September. Mark McNuity will defend the Masters title it is the final event of the European tour season on 30 October-2 November. COLUM CLASSIC (Scolum, Aus) Landing sto-end-round scores (Australian enless stander: 136 R Parroling 69 67: 137 G Chairnes 71.65: S Appleby 68 69, 139 P Lorrard 67 71. 139 M Roberts 71.68; W Gray 66 73; S Leaney 72 67; M Long (NO) 72 67; A Panner 71.68. 140 EBouts (NO) 71.69; D Diez 72.68, 143.P Cras-men 67 74, 142.8 King 69 73; S Robinson 70 72; C Janes 70 72; J Ceoper 70 72.

Hockey
CHAMPIONE TROPHY (Madrae) Seventh day:
Australia 1. Netherlands 1. Germany 4. Spain 3;
ridal Pelastian, Flour Pool places; 1. Netherlands
1.1px; 3 Pelastin 10; 3 Germany 6; 4 India 7 pts;
5 Australia 2, 6 Spain 2,

Rugby Union

unbeaten run.

Nake Drotske will captain South Africa A when they meet Emerging Weles at Swensee today. The Springbook's sec-ond string will be defending a seven-menth winning run, including a 35-20 victory over England A at Gloucester in michaels.

michwiek.
SOUTH AFRICA A (Tour metek v Emerging Wales, Seesses, today, 2.30): D de Telt (Mothem Termede): M Hendrichs (Botand). J Joubert (Nett). E. Lubbe (Grapatend West). M Gosson (Botand): I. Koen (Western Province). & Schollz (Mestern Province). & Schollz (Mestern Province). & Schollz (Mestern Province). R Seesses (Prec. State). The Drottels (Prec. State). The State (Grapatend West). R Emergency (Prec. State). B Emergency (State). R Seesses (Prec. State). A Seesses (Prec. State).

tution).
Fonwarder M Popplawe & Dientzestel, H Harfey Moseley, P Pilmin (Bleckrock College). P Wellince Siscocras). A McRoom (Landonwe). Q Halpis (London Insh), K Weed (Harlegsins). A Clarke (Morthampton). M McDewnott (Larsdonne). G Fulcher (London Insh), J Davidson (London Irsh). M O'dely (London Irsh). M Clarke (Stanzon). A Felley (Shannon). B Creatin (Carryowen). D Corfuer (Shannon). B Creatin (Carryowen). D Corfuer (Shannon). B Creatin (Carryowen). D Corfuer (Briston). E Millior (Leloction). D Millioration).

Heavy snow yesterday forced World Cup organisers to call off a women's glant stellom race and a men's downhill prac-tice in Vol d'Isere, France. Organisers were hoping that conditions would im-

Sandra Völker, the Olympic sliver medal-list, bounced back from a surprise de-feat in the 50metres butterfly to break teat in the 50 metres butterfly to break the European short-course record for the 100m freestyle yesterday in Rostock, Germany. She finished in 53.04sec, 1.42 shead of the second-placed Briton, Susan Rolph, beating the 53.33 European record set by her German rival, Franziska van Almsick, in Pelding, January 1993 and was just 0.03sec ourside the world mark of China's Le Jingui. There was further British success when Sarah Collings came third in the 80xf. freestyle final and qualified for today's 400m freestyle, Ian Wilson came first

in his 1500m qualifying heat with a time of 14:58.82.

of 14:58.82.
EIROPEAN SHORT-COURSE CHAMPI-ONSIEPS FRINLS (Rostnois, Germany)
Merc 50m breaststroke: 1.P lesteson (See)
27.76secs; 2.J Krupps (Ger) 27.77; 3.D Malek (Cach) 27.34. 50m backstroke: 1.M Sternbida (Pol) 25.03; 2.7 Karlo (Coa)
25.14; 3.5 Theioke (Ger) 25.15. 100m freestyle: 1.L Contan (Ger) 48.90; 2.N Butacu (Rom) 49.56; 3.N kan (Rom) 49.56.
400m freestyle: 1.E Brembills (b) Smn 45.52sec; 2.5 Polh (Ger) 37.83.07; 3.D Marganis (Ger) 37.48.29. 200m butterfly: 1.C Bremer (Ger) 157.04; 2.7 Rupprath (Ger) 1:57.30; 3.D Abrard (Fe) and A Andermatt (Sen) 1:59.23; 100m individual medity: 1.M Wouts (Hol) 54.62; 2.J Krupps (Ger) 54.82; 3.C Kelfer (Ger) 55.45; 8.S Handley (GB) 57.11.

Women: 50m butter fly: 1 J Sjoberg (Swa) 27.15secs (European record); 2 S Voller (Ger) 27.29; 3 M Perssinen (Fin) 27.69. 100m breeststroke: 1 T Miller (Nor) 1:07.91; 2 V Lischia (Aur) 1:08.18; 3 A Pezzik (Po) 1:08.33, 100m breestyle: 1 S Volker (Ger) 53.04 (European record); 2 S Rolph (GBI 54.46; 3 M Moravcova (Sloves) 54.95; 2 A Buschschufte (Ger) 2:08.15; 2 A Buschschufte (Ger) 2:08.15; 3 A Moravcova (Sloves) 54.95; 3 A Moravcova (Sloves) 54.95; 2 A Buschschufte (Ger) 2:09.54; 3 A Moravcova (Sloves) 2:09.54; 3 A Moravcova (Sloves) 54.95; 2 A Buschschufte (Ger) 2:09.54; 3 A Moravcova (Sloves) 54.95; 3 A Moravcova (Green) (Sould 3:34.24; 400m landwidus) seedley: 1 S Harbst (Ger) 4:39.26; 2 B Coada Caciany (Rom) 4:41.76; 3 P Chrastova (Cz Rep) 4:42.07; 800m freestyle: 1 C Geurs (Neth) 8:39.20; 3 S Colings (GB) 8:42.42; 4:50m freestyle: 1 E Germany 1:41.15; 2 Sweden 1:42.18; 3 Switzerland 1:44.90.

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True Gritt

Brighton's new manager shares his problems with Glenn Moore, page 24

Taking nothing for granted Andy Gomarsall, England's new scrum-half, talks to Chris Hewett, page 21

Gough's career best confirms revival

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Bulawayo England 334 & 230 for 5dec Matabeleland 188 & 261 England win by 115 runs

The preamble is over, and England have Darren Gough to thank for replacing last week's long faces with winning smiles, as Matabeleland were beaten here with 45 minutes to soare. After claiming a career-best 11 for 139 in the match, Gough

now looks ever closer to being the strike bowler he was in Australia two years ago, before a broken foot forced a change in action and a loss of form.

It has been a patient haul for him to reassert himself and pull back on the sweater sporting his beloved three lions. Normally as effervescent as liver salts in a bottle of cola, his confidence had waned and he was deliberately overlooked for Test duty last summer: the selectors, telling him to go away and take regu-lar wickets for Yorkshire. He obliged by taking 67 of them,

gradually overcoming his in-jury worries as he did so.

With all that now accomplished, he has begun to bowl with consistent pace again. On a slow and unyielding surface he rapped gioves and belmets, as well as stumps and toes, with a combination of bouncers and yorkers that brought five second-innings wickets to add to the six he took in the first.

You can always tell when I'm bowling well," Gough said. "I swing the ball out with the new one. It was a good pitch and later on I was trying to get them

back, back, back, then fire one up there. The classic one was the Manesh Ranchod dismissal [lbw to an in-dipping yorker for his second duck of the match]. I was

very pleased with that." It was not the only yorker ploy that worked on the day, and after having Guy Whittall well caught by Andy Caddick at third man, deliberately positioned for the batsman's uppercut shot over the slips, both Mark Abrams and Andy Whittall succumbed to the ball England's assistant coach likes to call "The old Harry Porker."

However, amongst all the wreckage, and presumably to some consternation to England, Mark Dekker and Heath Streak, who normally bats at No 9 for Zimbabwe, managed to put on 155 for the third wicket, before Streak was bowled off

an inside edge by Caddick. Before that breakthrough, England's attack (missing only the resting Alan Mullally) had looked insipid and it needed a few crafty spells of spin bowl-ing from Robert Croft, who took 4 for 65, to help expose the fault lines in the home side's batting.

however, was that just 14 balls were managed by Ronnie Irani, who is now in some doubt over tomorrow's one-day international. He hurt his back while bowling and will have a fimess

test today to see if he can play.

It was Croft, now getting some turn from around the wicket, who eventually removed the left-handed Dekker for 104. A hard-fought hundred that involved three mighty sixes and man wearing briefs and bearing

More worrying, than the relative strengths of the opposition, playing tamely back to Croft, alplaying tamely back to Croft, allowed England in for a swift kill.

Not everyone pulled their weight with the ball and Caddick who bowled well in the first innings, seemed to lacked zip yes-terday. He may still be catching up with his team mates after catching flu from his captain

when the side arrived 18 days ago: On the other hand, he has something of a reputation for being insecure and disliking hand work. The latter was alluded to by the England coach, David

dick. More pace. It's up to us to get more out of him and for him to get more out of himself."

Wyllie puts the heat on **England** again

CHRIS HEWETT Rugby Union correspondent

A single annual dose of New Zealand medicine is more than enough to satisfy even the most masochistic rugby player but to-day, just a fortuight after suf-fering their biggest home defeat in 12 years at the hands of Sean Fitzpatrick's multi-talented band of Barbarians, England must attempt to cast yet another All Black devil from the high altar of Twickenham.

Talk about sending coals to Newcastle. Few Argentinian sides of recent years have needed a refresher course in aggression - the last time the Pumas played in England, six years ago, they left the distinct impression that they had been coached by Angelo Dundee – but Jose Luis Imhoff's current tourists clearly believe they are in danger of going soft. Why else would Alex "Grizz" Wyllie, the roughest, for New Zealand, have been installed as technical director?

Wyllie, considered by the Pumas to be the best coach in the business, has made himself well known to British rugby folk down the years. He made one or two subtle pugilistic points to the

Bench press: England prepare at the Bank of England Ground in Roehampton yesterday for a confrontation with the raw muscle of the Argentinian tourists

Lions in the Battle of Canterbury way back in 1971, and as recently as three summers ago he was in charge of an Eastern Province side who gave violence a bad name in an X-rated shocker against England in Port Elizabeth. From stiff upper lip to fat lip in one easy lesson.

The Pumas have lost an entire world-class front row since giving England a roasting up front in Durban 18 months ago, but Wyllie believes the

tourists' remodelled pack possess ample raw muscle to make life seriously uncomfortable for lason Leonard, the new Engforwards this afternoon I think they stand up to the

best packs around in terms of bull-winning," said Grizz as the Argentinians prepared for their final training run yesterday. The important thing is that they retain what they win. One of the big mistakes in Puma rug-

by at the moment is turning over too much possession, which is. a question of attitude as much anything. I want to see that Micy are capable right to: often with Argentinian sides— they have ability but lose concentration very easily."

Leonard, who takes over the

tiller from the injured Phil de Glanville, is the only home forward to have confronted the

Pumas on more than one occasion: In fact, he has faced them four times and that rich experience leads him to believe that the England front five, so im-'eressive in both of this season's previous outings, will face the stiffest of examinations early on.

Provided they look after

themselves at the sharp end -and in Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, England possess line-out jumpers of sufficient quality to neutralise the hardened Buenos Aires pairing of Pedro Sporleder and German Llanes - Leonard's men should be guaranteed a 20-point winning margin. But despite the fact that their outside half, Mike Catt, declared himself fully reyesterday, there remains a degree of uncertainty about a back division that has fallen foul

of injury and illness this week. For the second time in three games, England unveil a new face at full-back. Nick Beal has the pace and elusive style to fill the strike runner's role so important to Jack Rowell's wider game plan, but he is no Tim Stimpson in terms of defence. He will need every ounce of support he can get from his wings, Jon Sleightholme and Tony Underwood, if he is to steer clear of Puma man traps.

As for Underwood, today's match completes a difficult week of contrasting emotions. Called into the squad last weekend when Adedayo Adebayo was concussed he suffered the indignity of being overlooked in favour of Jeremy Guscott, a centre by instinct and breeding Only when De Glanville cried off on Thursday was he flown back down from Newcastle and installed in the side.

It will be his first England apish collision with Jonah Lomu in Cape Town in last year's World Cup semi-final and, understandably, he badly wants to draw a line under the entire issue. "I can't stop people talking about the Lomu thing; it is undeniable that my last outing a important thing now is to give for England was that one against New Zealand and as

ENGLAND V ARGENTINA

with every other sport, you are only as good as your last game," he said yesterday. But I feel as though I expressed that particular ghost at the time - the day after the match, in fact - and the people something else by which to remember me.

"I felt it was a bit of a slap in the face when they decided to play Jerry on the wing, but when all is said and done, he's a great player and is obviously worth a place in the side. But things have turned out in my favour over the 4 last couple of days and it's up to me to make the most of it."

Photograph: David Ashdo

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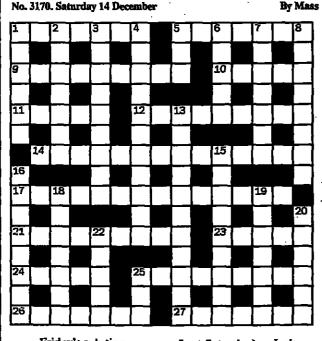
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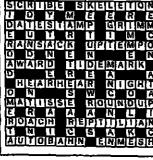
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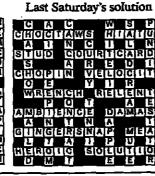
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution





ACROSS

Not quite right about 1 GP's prescription, mostly Root for strike over cut

Countries, in effect, with servile agents (9) 10 Fail-safe (5) 11 Film locations around Italy for certain stars?

12 Poor rider, that, coming a cropper (5-4)
A gathering enjoying many a blow-out?

17 Survey depicting Party in revival (14)

City rectifying Lorca ban around Spain (9) Watch level sinking in motorway (5) Climber needs pin back on face of alp (5)

Spell including maul in- 19 Arrive, taking level apjured one of the Spurs? 26 First of players during broadcast drove dan-

gerously (7) 27 A house with a promisDOWN

Quixote's timeless Span <u>is</u>h? (7)

Transmits easily (5,4) Drink for a day? Drawer has busy activity (11) Extend short step (3) Sally's collecting phos-phorous precipitate (5) Game Party figure rising on Left (7)

8 Drill on right lines, or out of step? (8)
13 Ulcerous fine spot signifying plague (11)
15 Gather bishop in course of circuit's getting acidity

16 In extremes of droughts, river trickles (8)
18 Rout of Light Brigade?
Horse ambushed in charge? (7)

proach (7) Quite like a bagatelle, about Ravel's first (6) 22 Animal seen in Eastern light (5) 25 One cut up by a club,

wanting endless drink?

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld-SBL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: J Skinner, Lincoln; E Williams, Ambuch Port; T & M Gibson, Hatfield; Richard Booth, Rotherbam; E Precious, Holmhridge.

Evans decides to sue Merle

Ricky Evans, the former Wales and Llanelli prop, has decided to sue the French lock-forward Olivier Merle after sustaining severe injuries following a butting incident in a Five Nations' Championship match almost two years ago.

Evans, who has served a writ in the French High Court, is claiming damages for the in-juries he received, loss of earn-

ings and medical expenses. The 36-year-old suffered a double fracture of his leg, ligament damage in his left ankle and a fracture of his nose during the Parc des Princes match in January 1995.

Evans, whose ankle was treated with the insertion of a screw and plate, returned to the game four and a half months later, missing three internationals.

Although he played in the World Cup against New Zealand, the hard South African grounds aggravated the metalwork in his ankle. He required further surgery forcing him to miss the first half of last season and he has been unable to reclaim his international place.

Evans, a firefighter, who now plays for Cardigan, said: "I kept quiet in 1995. However, I now realise that but for Mr Metle I would have been the was looking the other way."

number one loose-head prop for Wales in the World Cup. "After that, when the players

in the Welsh team became professional, I lost out. They carned more in the next five games than I received in all my 19 internationals." Merle was dropped from the

French side for the two matches after the incident but remains a member of their current team. Evans' solicitor. Mark Harvey, said: "French law would say that Mr Evans consented to a reasonable risk of a rugby injury when he played. He did not con-

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Little Miss Firecracker

John
Walsh
meets...
Imelda
Staunton



t's Broadway in the Depression. The streets are full of unemployed drifters and sad-eyed losers, hoping to strike it rich gambling on the gee-gees or the roll of dice. Thrills are hard to come by in this aleatoric wasteland, but one place you can guarantee them is the Hot Box nightchub. A white piano, a quintet of foxy babes in a bewildering variety of shapes who parade about in spangly tulle and acres of leg - and then, from behind the tacky red Hot Box curtains, there bursts an extraordinary sight: a minia-ture, 5ft Meissen shepherdess, but with added fishnet tights and huge pumpkinny smile. She sings Frank Loesser's farmyard-love classic "A Bushel and a Peck" with a catch in her voice, a weird eldritch squeak, and she sways across the stage wielding her pastoral crook like a guitar or a scythe, so that the tall horse-limbed dancing girls have to duck out of its way. She is a tiny force of nature. She is irresistibly gorgeous. At the song's climax, with the Hot Box babes going chook-chook around the piano, the shepherdess throws handfuls of corn to the first few rows of the audience, who grab it ecstatically. Gentlemen in expensive suits try to establish eye contact with the singer who is so cheekily, so Diamond-Lil-ishly, making them eat out of her hand... But this is not Broadway, nor the Depression.

nor a nightclub, nor a porcelain figurine. This is the National Theatre's new production of Guys and Dolls, which Richard Eyre first staged in 1982, to the collective rapture of London theatregoers. In those days, Imelda Staunton played the smallest and dumpiest of the Hot Box girls, dancing behind Ilia McKenzie, who sang Miss Adelaide, the sheplerdess role. Two years later, McKenzie left and Staunton, with a certain apprehensiveness, took over. Now, 12 years later, she's back in the part. And watching Guys and Dolls again, one is amazed how much Staunton has not just made the part her own, eclipsing all memory of McKenzie's rather drooping and pathetic Adelaide, but how she has made it seem a far greater role. In La Staunton's hands, "the well-known fiancée" becomes a complex figure - good-hearted but calculating, chronically disappointed but endlessly optimistic, dim but not gullible, dying to marry her feckless boyfriend, Nathan Detroit, impresario of the permanently floating crap game, but longing to knock him into shape, slushily romantic but one of the girls, a wisecracker, a shrew, a sexpot... Why you'd think you were watching some bittersweet American version of Everywoman there on stage.

The key word is "bittersweet", of course. Imelda Staunton has been playing bittersweet for years, on stage, on television, in movies. Her presence in sitcoms like Is It Legal? or comedy dramas like Up the Garden Path or literary-canon movies like Sense and Sensibility or comedy-mysteries like Joan Smith's televised novels always complicate their texture because of the air of frustration, of unfulfilment or bravely-borne melancholy, that wafts around her like parma violets. Audiences seem to like the way her watermelon smile, her smart-cookie manner conceals a broken heart. It also means she can play anything, from Shakespeare to Chekhov to Sondheim to a telly sleuth, without undue strain.

But who is she really? Is her disposition sweet

or bitter? The first shock, when you meet her, for lunch at the National's ritzy Mezzanine restaurant. is how alarmingly Celtic she looks. Out of makeup, out of costume and character, she is a mass of red curis, angry blue eyes and rough windblown complexion. She resembles a Galway tinker, only without the shawl and the cardboard box. Her hard little eyes could be those of an IRA moll. And though you soon warm to her straight, confiding manner ("What exactly is osso buco? Is it? Yergh") one remains a little wary of her. Prolonged exposure to Mayo redheads would suggest that she could have a fifthy temper. Does she? "No, I don't have a temper," she says pleasantly. "Although of course that's not healthy. I can't even say 'No, I'm not doing that...' without getting upset. I can't argue. I can be very clear about what I want, but I won't shout about it. I'm better at getting ahead of things. I'm not good at conflict, but I'm good at sensing it in the distance and defusing it."



'Chronically disappointed but endlessly optimistic': Imelda Staunton rehearsing the part she made her own, Adelaide, in 'Guys and Dolls'

Photo: John Haynes

I thought of Adelaide's on-off romance with Nathan, their screaming matches, their ill-matched temperaments, her determination, his constant retreat. Could she empathise? "I think Henry [Goodman, who plays Nathan] and I have a very good relationship. You feel he really loves her. He gets distracted a lot but, when he's with her, he really loves her. You feel it's not just a battle on her own, that I've really got to get this guy." Staunton habitually mixes up characters and actors like this, when talking about the part. It's as if her identification with Adelaide slides in and out of character all the time. So does her sense of Adelaide as a girlfriend, a singer, a fictional character and a good part to play. As we teased out the moral strands of the play, she said, "What I think is, the four main characters all grow up a bit in this story. Sarah [the Salvation Army virgin] who thinks, this is how my life is going to be, gets shown it can be other things as well, Adelaide decides she'll marry Nathan no matter what he is, Nathan gets a job on a news stand, Sky Masterson discovers it's all right to do something virtuous - they all make good journeys, and that's always interesting. And of course, if you get to sing in a nightclub at the same time, that's a nice perk costumewise..."

Staunton gives a tremendous on-stage impression of a Tin Pan Alley trouper. She practically bursts with emotion during "Adelaide's Lament", she hams up the Monroe-esque "Take Back Your Mink" with vigour, she rants like a termagant in "Sue Me", turning the last "When I think of the times..." into a single exasperated, wordless screech. It comes as a slight shock to discover that she doesn't actually care for the form at all.

"Audiences like Gups and Dolls because it's a very good play. The songs are good too, yeah, but you could perform it without the songs and still have a very good play. I just don't like a lot of musicals. I think a lot of them are crap. They're weak. Often you get a crap script and a couple of good songs, and you're supposed to think you've had a good night out. It's just not good enough." Gosh. Was there one she really really hated? "Oh, there was Mack and Mabel, which I did at Nottingham – great songs, terrible book. It's so furstrating. And I always want the songs to further the action. Not many of them do. The show stops, it's a song, the show starts again. It's so..." She speared a mouthful of monkfish, having turned down the Bayonne ham that was supposed to accompany it; she's a meat vegetarian, but not a fish vegetarian. "And when I was asked to do Into the Woods, they sent me a tape to listen to,

and the music went [she adopts a prancing, children's-TV delivery] Into the woods alone alone, into the woods...' and I just went [she mimes switching off a tape] Off! I don't think so." But she was in Into the Woods... "Oh, Richard Jones persuaded me to do it and I enjoyed it very much. But I'm not a great fan of Sondheim, and he knows it and is very nice to me." You don't like his lyrics? "I just like a time." The tuneful, musical-hating Staunton grew up in

north London. Both her parents were from the west of Ireland, her father a building contractor, her mother a hairdresser. "She was the fiery one, my father was the calm one. That's where it all [ie acting] comes from, the Celtic thing." The family (Imelda was an only child) lived over the shop. As a child, her taste in showbiz was for mid-century Americana. "I was a bit of a Frank Sinatra fan, people like him. When I was 11 or 12, I used to watch Dean Martin and Sinatra movies. I loved all that. I was a rather old-fashioned child. I liked Tony Curtis when I was 11. I always liked the Forties, at least the showbiz period. And I noticed how, when we got our costumes for Guys and Dolls, all the guys said, "Why don't we dress like this anymore?"

She went to a convent school, the La Sainte Union in Highgate, run by an order of French nuns, and has happy memories of the place – she's been back as a distinguished old girl, to talk to the Sixth Form. Part of the curriculum was a class in elocution, run by a Miss Stoker. She took a shine to the small but volcanic Imelda, encouraged her and steered her towards Rada. "I'm not sure what she saw in me. Maybe a future. But I was quite versa-

tile, and she used to get me to perform at drama festivals. I used to do finnny pieces like "The Maid on the Phone". You remember *The Three Faces of Eve*, that Joanne Woodward movie? She re-cast it for me as a monologue. And then she started a drama class after school..."

The super-critical Miss Stoker got her protégée into Rada. She left at 20, in 1976, and her career took off. She joined the RSC and then in 1982.

'Out of make-up, out of costume and character, she is a mass of red curls, angry blue eyes and rough windblown complexion'

only six years after drama school, the National Theatre. She went through a dozen "small funny lady" parts (including The Fair Maid of the West for the RSC), before determinedly branching out into Chekhov and Dennis Potter, she was the deeply nasty Nurse White in The Singing Detective. Of the people she has dealt with, she comes over most luvvie-ish about David Toguri, the Japanese American choreographer of Guys and Dolls ("He's an absolute genius. He makes dancers look like actors and actors look like dancers") and most defensive about Kenneth Branagh, who directed her in both Much Ado about Nothing and Peter's Friends. "I'm very protective about him because he's quite fantastic but the press don't seem to think so. Anyone who's ever worked for him knows his drive and energy and enthusiasm. You couldn't find a better producer, a better enabler than him". Was she in the Branagh Ham-

let? "No. It's a bloody oversight..."

I reminded her of the Goldie Hawn line in The First Wives Club, about how the only roles currently available to women are the girlfriend, the District Attorney and Driving Miss Daisy. Staunton laughed,

having rarely been out of work for more than a fortnight. "That's an old one, the whinge about women in the theatre. I think playwrights are writing better and better parts for women. But you have got to keep taking parts as long as you can and not turning things down, because when you're 50 or 55, you'll start to run out.

Though she recently turned a mere 40, there is a distinct trace of incipient grande dame about Imelda. It's only noticeable when she's talking about her peer group of leading ladies, as if she has now joined their august company and it was time everyone knew about it. "There are lots of good parts around at the moment. Have you seen Janet McTeer in A Doll's House? The most breathtaking performance you'll ever see. If she doesn't get an Olivier award for that – if bloody Diana Rigg gets one [for Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?] and Janet doesn't, I'm going to be most pissed off..."

From her current perspective - happily married to the actor Jim Carter, with a bay daughter Bessy Beatrice, aged three - she considers the chronic yearning of the "character" actress, forever wondering where the next hob is coming from. "I suppose I did spend a lot of time thinking, 'I wish I was playing that or 'Why can't I be in that?", and I'm so glad to have stopped all that. I've lost that pathetic need. It's not that I don't care any more. But if I didn't work for the next year or so, it'd be fine, as long as we could pay the mortgage".

But what would she do if she didn't act? "I could get a job in a drama school." She means it. Imelda Staunton is giving up singing Adelaide at the end of the present NT run in March, and not coming back for the big, all-thro'-the-summer run. But since she's turned the part into the biggest prima donna role on the London stage, was there anything more important?

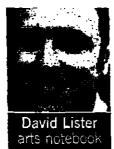
"My life?" she says with an interrogative lift. "I just want to be at home with the baby. We may do another series of the sitcom [Is It Legal?] in August and I can't think of anything nicer than to have April, May and June at home. I have my cake and I want to eat it all. I want to play this part and I want to go home". And with that, the equilibrial and straightforward actress who currently inhabits the soul of ditzy Everywoman with such passionate conviction on the Olivier stage, took herself off to be photographed, practising her Baader-Meinhof scowl for the camera.

'Guys and Dolls', Olivier, RNT, London, SE1 (0171-028 2352) now exprisering.

Andrew and the Amazing Technicolor lawsuit

hose whose cultural reading may not extend to the court cases on the foreign pages of The Stage have missed a little treasure. A judge in New York has dismissed a claim for \$78.09 by a certain Andrew Lloyd Webber. As this sum would barely buy Sir Andrew brunch in New York and the case was considered serious enough for a four-day non-jury trial, this was all rather puzzling. Reading on, it becomes more so.

Sir Andrew's claim was in fact a counter-claim against composer Ray Repp for allegedly stealing a song from his musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolar Dreamcoat. The \$78.05 was



the sum that Repp's song
"Till You" had generated
over the years – a heartless
statistic to have read out in
open court, but counterclaiming composers will stop
at nothing when their
honour is questioned.

Repp had actually sued Lloyd Webber first in 1990 claiming he had taken "Till

You" and turned it into the theme song from Phantom of the Opera. Lloyd Webber agreed to "borrowing" the song, but not from Repp. He claimed it was taken from his own song "Close Every Door", which was indeed in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and therefore if any illegal borrowing had been done it was by Repp. Anyway, Repp's suit was thrown out in 1994, Repp appealed and Lloyd Webber filed his counter-claim. At this point, one stops to

marvel at the musical literacy of American judges. Dismissing the Lloyd Webber counter-claim, Judge Shirley Wohl Kram stated: "Although the songs

share some musical devices, such as rising arpeggios and descending tetrachords, such tools are among the most common devices used in music." Just the sort of throwaway lines they come out with at Lincoln's Inn. Happily both Repp and Sir Andrew have said they will appeal in their respective suits, so we can look forward to another memorable brush off for someone from Judge Shirley Wohl Kram.

It's also noteworthy that while Sir Andrew denicd plagiarising any of Repp's material, he did admit to using works of Bach, Grieg and Holst for "Close Every Door". All happily out of copyright; but Repp managed to trump that. "Till

You' has lyrics taken from the book of *Luke*. It was a surprise to hear Sir Peter Hall say that he will

be directing his first King Lear next year when he opens his new company at the Old Vic. To run the RSC and National Theatre for a quarter of a century and miss out on Lear is close to carelessness. It was also a surprise as when Sir Peter returned to Stratford upon Avon to direct All's Well That Ends Well a few summers ago, the RSC publicity material claimed this was the one Shakespeare Sir Peter had never directed. Actually there are a few still to do including Much Ado About Nothing and King John as well as Lear, he told me. But

why let the facts get in the way of a good press release? Life is unpredictable for Lynn Redgrave at the moment. This Is Your Life surprised her after her onewoman show at the Haymarket Theatre, with sister Vanessa rushing over from John Gabriel Borkman at the National complete with stage snow in her hair. And last weekend Lynn flew to Washington to attend the Kennedy Arts Awards at the White House. Meeting President Clinton, she was ready with "you don't know me but" when he said: "Hey, I've just seen your new film, Shine. I had a home

screening." So the President

of the United States has

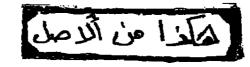
private screenings of low

budget Australian-made movies. Is he a secret arts junkie? Or does he just have time on his hands?

A Christmas lesson from the Academy of St Martin in . the Fields. Not just a lesson in good housekeeping, though unlike any other major British orchestra, it receives no government subsidy and remains the most recorded chamber . orchestra in the world. Its real lesson is in how to combine a concert with the season of goodwill. Next Tuesday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the concert culminating in Beethoven's First Symphony will involve audience and performers bringing a shoebox or other suitable container full of

practical items such as socks, shoes, blankets and food, which will be distributed among the homeless. The Shoebox Concert (box-office number 0171-960 4242) could set a seasonal lead and not just for orchestras. Roll on the shoebox pautomimes.





Put away childish things

Paul Taylor reviews alternative theatrical fare for younger people

t this time of year, children find themselves squeezed – figuratively speaking – at both ends. Instead of acting in shows developed from improvisation and real pupil input, all too many glazed, over-rehearsed, middle-class schoolkids will have had to take part in Christmas "entertainments" penned by adults. And what's worse, just the kind of adults who think it's huge fun if children are given, on occasion, archly "grown-up" lines to say – thus essentially leaving them out of the joke and feeling unsure about what exactly the audience is laughing at

about what exactly the audience is laughing at.

Required to impersonate spurious sophistication as performers, children are conversely expected, as consumers, to chaperone their parents to shows that gratify an adult's distorted nostalgia for lost innocence. As is the case every year, the country is awash with stagings of Peter Pan - from the thrillingly large scale, such as Matthew Warchus's spectacular, airborne and emotionally painful rendering at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. to the charmingly intimate - like the version directed by Dilys Hamlett at the Watermill, Newbury, which finds cheeky ways of getting round the problem that, in this confined but beautiful space, flying is out.

JM Barry, who had sad biographical reasons for wanting to put perpetual prepubescence on a plinth, can be credited with creating the most supremely blackmailing moment in world drama. Poor Tinkerbell, having turned up trumps and drunk the poison to protect Peter, is about to twinkle her last twinkle. But then "She says - she says she thinks she could get well again if children believed in fairies! Say quick that you can believe! If you believe, clap your hands!" As a child, I used to wonder how you were supposed to clap your hands when both your arms were being twisted behind your back.

Not that I'm against this moment. Yesterday, reviewing Jonathan Miller's joylessly rationalist Midsummer Night's Dream, I argued that it came across as the work of someone who, when he was a child watching Peter Pan, would have allowed Tinkerbell to die, rather than clap his hands. This was intended as an insult. You wouldn't want your children not to clap, or never to have believed in fairies: on the other hand, wouldn't it be fairer to them, after a certain age, to come clean and make a joke of the comical, sad fact that it's also to buttress adult illusions that they are being asked to applaud? This would constitute as bracing an introduction as any to the bizarreries of the grown-up world and its peculiar demands on children.

That moment in Peter Pan has been given shrewd creative twists by other writers. Towards the end of Beryl Bainbridge's fine novel. An Awfully Big Adventure, the heroine, a young member of a professional rep company putting on *Peter Pan*, hears that the seasoned old pro playing Captain Hook, with whom she has been having underage sex, has apparently committed suicide. It's her job to flash the torch on the mirror that creates the illusion of Tinkerbell. That night, though, "Stella dropped the torch and let it roll into the wings as the children brought their palms together to save Tinkerbell. The light swished from the back-cloth. For a moment, the clapping continued, rose in volume, then died raggedly away, replaced by a tumult of weeping..." A wonderful objective correlative for the death of the remnants of this girl's innocence.



PHOTO: PAU ROS

'in denial" that he was once Peter Pan and lived in Neverland. This fascinating mess of a movie should be compulsory additional viewing for all children who go to the stage show because it's an invaluable insight into the way adults often don't even know the right questions, let alone the correct answers.

Hook is full of signs that Spielberg is aware that our conception of childhood innocence has changed radically since Barry's day. "What is this - Lord of the Flies pre-school?" mutters an anxious Williams on rejoining the Lost Boys, who here are a jungle-dwelling, racially mixed gang of potential juvenile crime statistics. On the other hand, the movie buys into all that psychobabble about bonding with your inner child, and with Williams, as with most people who go on in this way, you hope that when they find their inner child, it turns out to be the school bully.

There are two very interesting alternatives to Peter Pan's view of innocence now on in London. Adolescents would get something out of Strindberg's peculiar fairytale-like Swan White, directed now by Timothy Walker at the Gate. People familiar In Steven Spielberg's movie, Hook, the Tinkerbell scene, with this dramatist's Easter, with its useful heroine who can feel "Feter Pan": West Yorkshire Playhouse (0113-244 2111); Waterna

frightened of spending time with his kids. Why? Because he's the corollary of Strindberg's keen knowledge of the heart's darkness. But this story of a young girl who, left to the mercies of her wicked stepmother, none the less eventually works her way up to a selfless love that can raise the dead and offer forgiveness, is a weird and refreshing change from panto.

Proving once again, though, that the Young Vic consistently produces the best young people's Christmas shows, Laurence oswell's theatrically thrilling version of Beauty and the Beast is performed in an involving, presentational style. Not stinting on the knock-about comedy and properly scary with its spooky tall doors in the aisles, behind which all manner of fearful things may lurk, Boswell's version is also an imagistically haunting meditation on the idea (as A Midsummer Night's Dream puts it) that "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind". The show is salutary for two other reasons. The Prince turns out to be quirkily attractive rather than your standard dish. And when Beauty's prevarications kill the Beast, instead of finding her inner child, Beauty here finds her inner grown-up.

We two kingth

Cross-dressing, green fish and camcorders. Louise Levene on the delights of the nativity play

he cast list for the playgroup nativity went up. Alexander would play the Gold King, Jack would play the Myrrh King. There was a blank space in between.

"Who's bringing the Frankincense?"
"Ah. Slight problem. Jonathan wants to be a Queen." The three-year-old's harmless flirtation with cross-dressing didn't seem too troublesome at first. Nobody was fool enough. to ponder the implications for his sexuality at this early stage. and his mother wasn't weeping for her unborn grandchildren. Besides, if he thought of himself as a Queen, no one need ever know: the robes (two metres of acetate lining and a bit of tinsel) are entirely unisex. "OK, Jonathan, you can be a Queen."

Rehearsals begin.
"We thwee Kingth of Orwient are."

"Ahem." "Yes, Jonathan?"

"I'm a QUEEN!" affirms Jonathan, stamping his little

"Yes, I know, we agreed. You're a Queen."
"So it should be 'We two Kingth AND A QUEEN'."

Mayhem at the manger is part of the charm of the school nativity play. Indeed for many, weary of the nauseating sight of small, reluctant and totally inept performers shuffling through the old "Have you room at the inn? / Have you booked?" routine, it is the sole reason for attending. For every fond parent on their knees in the front row with a camcorder, there is a sour and jaded granny longing for her brood to outgrow the whole sorry spectacle. The only fun she gets is when the shepherds, armed with authentic crooks by an inexperienced play leader, begin a full-scale fight in the stable straw.

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NEXT WEEK !

Of course, this is a piece of cake compared with many of the problems that can arise when staging what was once a straightforward Christian pageant. The Pre-School Learning Alliang anxious to reflect Britain's religious and ethnic diversity, taken the view that Christmas shouldn't get all the attention. In order to downplay the Christian element of the performance, nativity plays have come slightly adrift from the New Testament.

Once upon a time the RE teacher would have locked young Jonathan in the stationery cupboard to learn Matthew 2, 1-12 Today playgroups are wary of antagonising other religions, and reluctant to force-feed the children of lapsed Anglicans with too much in the way of Christian doctrine. Very often the ritual alone is left, isolated from the texts that gave birth to it.

As a result, your average roddler tends to regard the holy family pageant as a fancy diess free for all. Mary, Joseph. Kings

and the all-important "Baby Cheeses" are supplemented by soldiers, flower fairies, Ninja Power Rangers and anything else the dressing-up cupboard affords. No wonder the three-year-olds get confused. My local playgroup had a problem last year when explaining how Jesus's birth is traditionally attended by a barnful of animals. The Chosen Sheep, decidedly underwhelmed by the prospect of attending the nativity in a fluffy played by lisping American schoolchildren, is interrupted by the sound of a mobile phone. This belongs to Robin Williams's Peter, a repressed lawyer who takes his work everywhere and is almost

And not an Aladdin among them

Feeling pantophobic? From The Witches to Frankenstein, we review the best alternative Christmas shows in London

Dick Daredevil

Not content with producing a Christmas show that's for the family, the Steam Industry have come up with a musical comedy that's about the family, in particular about the role of fathers and the needs of sons. Set in London during the Blitz, Dick Daredevil tells the story of Billy Spratt and his mother, Rose. Billy's father has been killed during the war, but numerous surrogates abound. There's Edmund, the feekless gay young man, who lives in Rose's guesthouse, and shares in Billy's innocent fantasies about the radio superhero Dick Daredevil. There's Charles, the suave American officer, who Rose considers marrying to give Billy a man around the house. And above all, there's Daredevil himself, a red-blooded (and red-tighted) superhero, whose intergalactic exploits Billy avidly follows on his mother's art deco radiogram.

When Edmund invents a machine that can travel to and from Dick's world, Billy gets a chance to show his mettle against the evil space emperor Von Rippenclaw – and to see how Daredevil copes with wartime England. To Phil Willmott's credit he manages to weave the subtext subtly into the action, rather than ramming it down the audience's throat. Too subtly, perhaps, What should be the highlight of the piece, Billy's encounter with Daredevil in London, is passed over with reckless baste. All too brief, the best scene - a bittersweet sequence in which Daredevil sets out with Billy to foil a Nazi plot against Churchill but ends up getting drunk in the pub - hints at what might have been.

All is not lost, though. Steven Markwick's score doesn't exactly send you out into Fitzrovia foot-tapping, but it runs the gauntlet from pastiche Cole Porter to pastiche Kurt Weilt well enough. Sarah Payne puts in a fine singing performance as Billy's plucky mum, and Von Rippenciaw (Howard Samuels) makes a first-class villain, waxing lyrical about the "patter of little jackbootees". If the twin morals – anyone can be a hero, and families don't have to have fathers - ultimately seem a little pat, well, maybe it would help to be closer to Billy's age than Dick's.

Adrian Turpin The Drill Hull, 16 Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270).

Frankenstein: The Panto

Not Mary Shelley's monster-maker but Frankie N Stein, porter at Herr Pumpernickle's Bavarian hotel and brother of the culturally challenged Phyllis. Writer David Swan has co-opted Dracula and Dracula's grandmother, Granula, into this lowbudget hijinks, as well as a party of over-sexed schoolgirls and their only slightly less libidinous school mistress, Miss Nellie. As the self-regarding St Trinianette Bridget Bloggs fights the chambermaid Heidi for the attention of Prince Ludwig, the dark count attempts to quench his thirst for virgin blood. Only a mad scientist with a penchant for peppermint saves the day.

Gillian King's snappy little production shares features with the big-name, big-money pantomimes: shaving-foam pies, TVinspired jokes (both television and transvestite) and a fondness for the words "bottom" and "knickers". But the Tabard Theatre's small space, as well as a young cast devoid of boxers and soap stars, make this a far more intimate affair, while John Asquith's commanding Nellie (always on the right side of irmocent, even when performing a striptease) gives new life to the cliche "There is nothing like a dame". AT Tabard Theatre, Chiswick W4 (0181-995 6035). To 21 Dec

It's a brave theatre that sells wands that light up in the dark before its Christmas production. So it's a mark of David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel, that The Witches isn't lost behind a tinselly sea of swizzle sticks, borne aloft like cigarettelighters at a Barry Manilow concert. You can put a lot of this down to Dahl's compellingly idiosyncratic vision of what a witch is like: toeless, bald as a coot, possessed of blue spit and able to sniff out a child at 40 paces (apparently they smell of dog-droppings). No surprise that the biggest laughs go to a joke about "DIY gravy" (guess) and a rodent trapped down a waiter's pants. But Wood, who also directs, never lets the snot-laden gags,

or even the irritatingly cutesy puppet mice, distract from the plot. Nor is he afraid of stillness or to leave the stage almost bare when it suits his purpose. Dahl's strange coming-of-age fable about the orphaned Boy (a saccharin-free but winsome Karen Brif-

fett) who is transformed into a mouse comes through loud and the play takes off, bouncing airily through its fey fantasy, and scatclear, and is spared the happy-ever-after ending grafted on to last year's Disney version. "How long does a mouse live?" asks the child condemned to spend the rest of his life avoiding cats and eating cheese. "Not very long, I'm afraid," replies his grandmother. Moving, challenging and funny, The Witches is sur-prisingly intelligent fare for a West End children's show. AT Vaudeville, The Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987). To 18 Jan

Oedipus: The Pantomime

The show that's not afraid to wear its eyes on its sleeve. Or so says the chorus. In fact, it's more a case of the blind leading the blind. The plot doesn't deviate that much from Sophocles' original (though the old man may be looking down from Olympus scratching his head at a couple of deities called Terry and Juno). Unfortunately, it's also not that much funnier. At the risk of sounding sick, the problem is that David Mitchell and Robert Webb's script is curiously tame. It flirts with bad taste, but never quite goes all the way. And, let's face it, what other reason can there be for doing Oedipus as a comedy than to plumb the depths? Still, if you're so over-educated that the exchange "How are the Bacchi today?" "Oh, ecstatic as usual" makes you split your sides, you may get some pleasure of it. Otherwise, go and buy Tom Lehrer's get geng tribute to the king of Thebes, which does much the same job but in a 50th of the time. Pleasance, London N7 (0171-609 1800): To 12 Jan

Before his death earlier this year, Vivian Ellis penned three new songs for Listen to the Wind, a jolly slice of Victoriana, already jam-packed with arch little tunes about wicked pirates, sea witches and dopey talking birds. The story follows three children abducted from their home on Christmas Eve and spirited away to the Palace of Winds, where they defeat the evil forces of Black

Thunder Cloud, a baddie with a "stormy" personality. After a sticky beginning, where the poor little rich girl becomes friends with her ruffian cousins, and the company sing an interminable pastiche parlour song called "Timothy's Under the Table",

tering delicious lyrics along the way. Miranda, the raddled mermaid, delivers a pleasingly world-weary number about her tran-sition from fishy femme fatale to "old sea cow" ("I used to be an actress at the Moules Marinières, the only thing I were was seaweed in my hair") and the cast perform with gusto, but this 1954 musical certainly shows it's age.

After two hours of drawing-room whimsy, you begin to feel as though someone has been force-feeding you glace cherries. For little children, the adventure and magical set design should keep them rapt, but while grown-ups may relish Ellis's precious punning about Miranda's "larks" with "sharks", you can't help wonder what anyone between the ages of seven and consent will make of it all. If they're not sniggering over the title, I suspect they may find it all a bit rich. King's Head, Upper St. London N1 (0171-226 1916). To 19 Jan

The Servant of Two Masters

I still haven't quite got over a distrust of Carlo Goldoni since going to see Countrymania, the National Theatre's burn-numbingly leaden medley of the Italian's work, in the 1980s. Ted Craig's Servant of Two Masters is something else, whispy as the top of a cappuccino (indeed, its chessboard and primary colours design is reminiscent of that masterpiece of aeration, Ian Judge's RSC Comedy of Errors). It's also about as nourishing as cappuccino, but who's to begrudge a little well-whisked froth at Christmas?

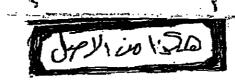
The story is a kind of 18th-century cross between Up Pompeti

and Carry On Eating, its hero the servant Ruffaldino, who runs himself off his feet trying to serve two masters at once. It's full of clattering plates, slaps to the head, fast-swinging doors and a tri-fle the size of St Peter's dome in Rome. There's food in the audience, too, where tables have been set aside for patrons to eat and drink. If Miltos Yerolemon sometimes tries a little too hard to be liked as the eponymous manservant, there's ample consolation in some finely drawn supporting performances, not least Richard Kane's Venetian merchant as Jewish East End businessman, Pantalone. An enjoyable evening. Warehouse Theatre, Croydon (0181-680,4060). To 26 Jan



"a romantic delirium for troubled times"

KARL MILLER, Observer







The Suet crisis averted

You'd think that making your debut in Vienna's Musikverein might inspire a few nerves. But sheer terror? Ian Pillow recounts a wicked tale of breaking the British beef ban to save a few pence at Christmas

s the plane flies out of the low clouds on its descent to the airport, I see out of the window the city of Vienna spread below me. We, the members of the Bournemouth Symphony, are on our way to perform in the hallowed hall of the world-famous Musikverein (home to the mighty Vienna Philharmonic) and my first sight of the city sends waves of apprehension shivering through my body. Beads of sweat break forth on my brow.

One would expect the odd tingle of anticipation or even a small butterfly to flap lazily inside the ample stomach of an old dog scarred by many years of battle; but full-scale terror?

The reason is not so much the thought of performing to ears accustomed to hearing the world's finest orchestra, or facing the wrath of smuggling operation.

For on my person is concealed nothing less than my sister's Christmas pudding, destined for the larder of my niece in Frankfurt, where we are playing in a few days' time. (No, not in her larder. In the Jahrhunderthalle.)

When I had airily agreed to save my sister the postage stamps, I had not realised the full implications of my actions.

The alarm bells started ringing in the band room a few weeks ago when my colleagues were relating the tale of a violinist who had wanted to save money by packing a week's supply of Pot Noodles on a trip to Finland, only to be thwarted by a rule forbidding the import of reconstituted meat.

the pudding will have been made of beef suet, and as Germany and British beef are not exactly back-slapping best buddies at the moment, it appeared; but there isn't room for it. Alternaback-slapping best buddies at the moment, it

caught with it would be worth at least two years

Just think of the headlines if the story broke. "Orchestra's performance contaminated by BSE-carrying viola player." What's more, I have learnt that if the orchestra is delayed while the pudding is sent off for analysis, making us late for the concert, we would incur a fine of £2,000. I feel the weight of the orchestra's success or failure on my shoulders. The pudding might, of course, be made from vegetarian suet, but being an ancient Pillow recipe, and looking at surviving ancient Pillows, that seems unlikely.

I therefore had an awkward decision to make. I could have put the pudding in a suitcase, which might have been less likely to be searched. But as our ancient BAC 111 plane (chartered from the world's most discerning critics. The truth is, I have become party to a daring international weight limit, there would only have been enough weight left for a cuff-link.

So hand luggage it had to be. The tin foil wrapped round the pudding has already set the metal detectors ringing at Bournemouth airport. Having to declare the pudding and watch it sail imperiously along the conveyor belt in front of the whole orchestra was a demoralising experience.

Somehow the phrase "It's only a Christmas pudding" - uttered in one's own language, at one's home town airport - doesn't exactly sound John Le Carré, but here in a strange land and with only "ein Kaffee bitte" to get me out of trouble, this moment of reckoning is awe-inspiringly terrifying.

And therein lies the problem. I feel sure that out of the hold-all by the carousel where the

carousel, rush to the other end and pick it off right under the nose of the customs official, exclaiming loudly, "Aha! Here is my sister's 100 per cent vegetarian Christmas pudding, which is going to the poor people of Vienna," but my German phrasebook doesn't quite run to that. Nor, fortunately, does "Seize that man; he has a suet pudding" occur in too many of the phrasebooks belonging to those colleagues who have threatened to blow the lid off the whole

scam with that one devastating sentence. "Don't worry. Just walk normally," says one

of my more sympathetic companions. I have never "walked normally" to order in my life before. I suddenly can't remember how to do it. Put one foot in front of the other and transfer the weight from the back of the front foot to the front of the front foot and lift the back of the back foot and carry it to the front. The dummy run (walk?) is not a success, particularly as, in order to appear nonchalant, my gaze is thrust 90 degrees upwards while I try to whistle "The Blue Danube". A less than wise choice - the sixth note onwards is way out of range. (You try it.) The total effect is odd a curious lope like a slow-motion ice-skating kangaroo emitting occasional high-pitched

squeaks at the ceiling.

Eventually a semi-satisfactory choreography is achieved as I limp through the "Nothing to Declare" channel like a paraplegic crab - head bowed away from the customs official to my right, and the hold-all hard against the left leg and the china basin with its reinforced con-I did have the idea of sneaking the pudding crete contents painfully bombarding my left knee. I have changed my repertoire to "The Radetsky March"

The ploy works like a charm. I am through. After the pressures of international crime, almost certainly be a no-no. Getting tively I could plonk the pudding on to the playing in the concert is so easy-peasy that I can

only assume the standing ovation and shouts of "Bravo!" are in recognition of my fearless heroism against officialdom. A veritable Robin Hood among viola players.

I can now sit back and enjoy the rest of

There are a few dress problems in Frankfurt. I am playing the concert in soaking wet clothes, having completely forgotten about the law of displacement ("When a large body is immersed in a small bath...") and allowed a tidal wave of scapy water to overflow the bathroom floor upon which my concert dress lay waiting.

One of the coach drivers has off-loaded a case containing an oboist's concert clothes at the hotel instead of at the hall where they are needed. Our tour guide has taken a taxi back from the hall to the hotel, picked up the case, taxied back and left the case in the taxi. The taxi has now returned to the hotel and deposited the case with the porter, who has gone and put a violinist's case on to a coach belonging to another orchestra that is now heading for the other end of the country.

This spanking new hotel boasts the latest hitech security system. You wave a plastic card hopefully in mid-air in the lift, whereupon you zoom up to the floor on which your room is located. Should you be invited on to another floor to inspect a friend's tea-making facilities, you have to go all the way down to reception and face an embarrassing interrogation.
"Warum gehst Sie zu fünste Etage?"

"Ich möchte das Hanky Panky."

In the Bierkeller after the concert, we sit around discussing the shortcomings of the hanky-panky-proof hotel. "Someone with criminal mind could crack the system." All eyes turn on me.

Ian Pillow is a viola player with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Twin peaks

CLASSICAL MUSIC Katia and Marielle Labèque

Barbican Centre, London

atia is the shorter sister. sound reflected their different who frizzes her hair and has a wicked twinkle in her eye. Marielle looks like a Renaissance Madenna and acts like the elder. (There are two years between them. though I can never remember effort. But there are some which way.) On Thursday night, Katia almost had to push Marielle into a second encore, a sort of fantasy on The Entertainer, by which time she was in party mood, all flailing arms and naughtily pointed fingers, which made the audience laugh. She might have been entertaining the boys in Derry Rides Again. Perhaps Marielle sent her to bed with-out supper afterwards.

Of course, it's all an act. Two pianos are a rich, extravagant medium, with the poten-tial for dramatic sparring, and the Labèques make the most of it. But they do really play together, as only dedicated duos can, and, despite Katia's antics, they don't overload the decibels. Which would have been so easy in the chaste classical language of Mozart's Sonata in F for two players at one piano, and his betterknown Sonata in D for two pianos. Here, a little bit of contrast between them wasn't unwelcome, for Katia is the more brittle, percussive player, while Marielle sinks deeper into the keys and sustains a more resonant legato. The

personalities.
It's odd that the original

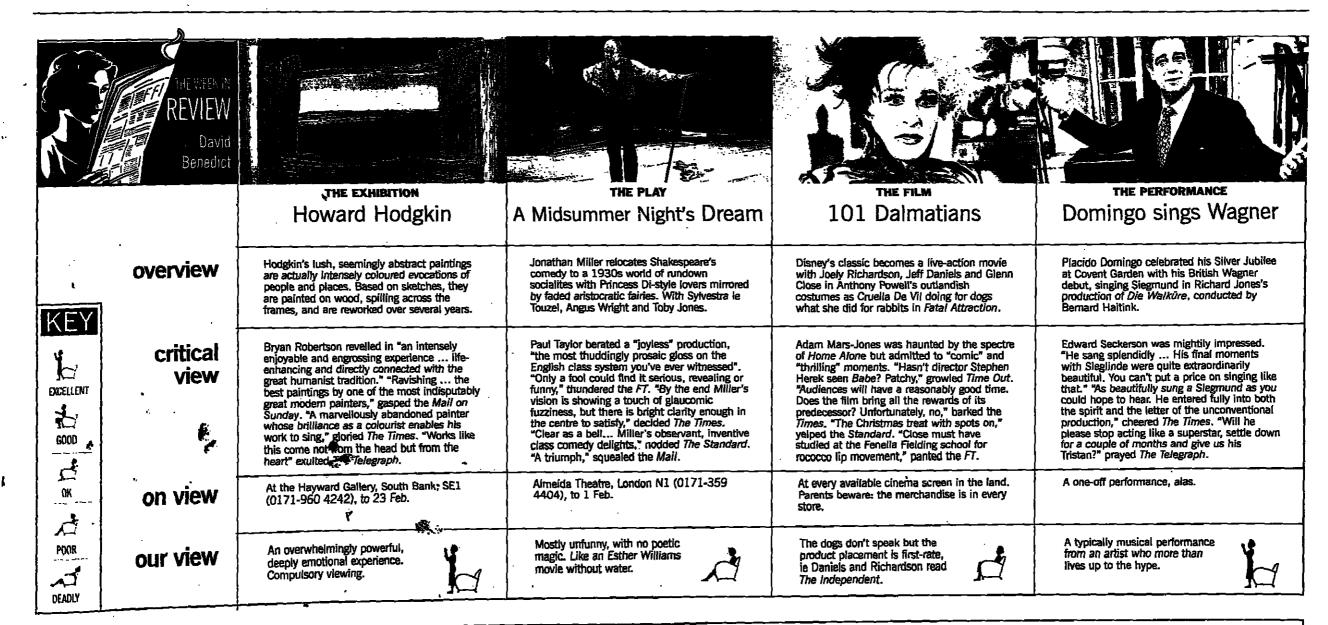
repertoire isn't larger, though writing for two pianos is a lot of work and there aren't so many good duos to reward the sensational arrangements of orchestral music. Hearing Ravel's transcription of the fus. two of Debussy's Nocnumes, "Nuages" and "Fetcs". was almost more thrilling than hearing the original, because of the added frisson of discovering how the unlikely could be managed. The Labèques played both with a wonderful ear for Debussy's colours and textures, and judged tempi perfectly. Their fingerwork and ensemble were immaculate. A pity we didn't get the last Nocturne. Sirenes", then Katia could

have added the vocals. Ravel's own Rapsodie Espagnole followed, as sultry and evocative as it was disciplined by understatement. It's such fastidious music, it hardly invites exaggeration. So, the girls earnt the right to go a bit flash, and launched into Michel Camilo's Jazz on Fire, one of their irresistible crossover numbers, Katia spinning a thin little tendril of a melody to begin, then both erupting in a tumultuous Latin

Adrian Jack



Labèque sisters: Immaculate fingerwork and ensemble



NEXT WEEK: Four pages of arts, entertainment, Christmas services and walks in the Long Weekend. Plus: 14 days of TV in the Eye

le Carré "a riotous, readable novel" PETER MILLAR, The Times

From Eatanswill to Foot's last stand

Robin Cook listens to the shining wits of Westminster

The Literary Companion to Parliament edited by Christopher Silvester, Sinclair-Stevenson, £30 The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations edited by Anthony Jay, Oxford, £15.99

eing a Member of Parliament is not a profession but an obsession. We work daily 12-hour shifts in its offices. We take three meals a day in its tea rooms and canteens. Our sense of reward is a speech well-received. Our sense of fun is a speech well-tackled.

Anyone who shares our obsession to the extent of producing 600 pages of memoirs about Parliament starts out with our prejudices behind him. I began by really wanting to admire the monumental fruits of Christopher Silvester's labour, but even a mutual obsession could not sustain my enthusiasm.

He produces some interesting facts for addicts of Trivial Pursuit - for instance, that the tea room consumed 224lbs of bacon rashers in an all-night sitting. But the overall effect is curiously lifeless and does not capture the passion, the venom or the grandeur of Par-

The first problem is that his Companion is not at all literary. I could find not any extract from the many novels that flit through Parliament. Dickens is cited as a sketch writer, but there is no quotation from Our Mutual Friend of the satirical dash to take the mood of the nation in Central Lobby, or from Pickwick Papers about the election for the Borough of Eatanswill. Incredibly, Trollope has not a single entry, although no literary figure has written more about Parliament or appeared more famously as the favourite reading of Conservative Prime Ministers.

Silvester's chief sources are MPs writing diaries for their own entertainment; but people writing privately about their own obsession tend not to produce great literature. It is unnecessary for him to include a spectacularly tedious chapter on great bores when most chapters provide adequate proof that MPs can indeed be bores. The second problem is that Silvester appears to be under the impression that Parliament was suspended at the time of the Suez Crisis and never reconvened. The half century in which the bulk of his poten-

tial buyers grew up is missing.

The chapter on ladies in Parliament



The Rights of a Seditious Poltroon: Paine is burned on a bonfire of his 'Rights of Man' stoked by Pitt. A kilted Dundas dances as Burke directs the merriment. Published 16 January, 1793 and taken from 'Edmund Burke: A Life in Caricature' by Nicholas K Robinson (Yale University Press, £30)

leaves the reader with the nagging suspicion that he regards that phrase as a contradiction in terms. Most of the quotations are about women in the Ladies' Gallery, with only two entries for the

dominant parliamentary figures of this century was Margaret Thatcher. It is impossible to understand the excessively

period after the suffragettes succeeded. Yet, by anyone's standards, one of the now without reference to her con-

The chapter on "Great and Terrible Margaret Thatcher. Yet everyone can Occasions" contains neither the fall of agree that one of those events was

Stand, nor the resignation speech of

though there may be different views as to which way round the descriptions fit. No-one who was there on the day of Mrs Thatcher's last speech at the Despatch Box will forget how a weary, defeated woman was transformed into the familiar handbagger when she rounded an a heckler. One of the reasons she survived so long in office, despite dishing out a diet of uppepular policies, was that she could command the Commons. Conversely, one of the reasons why the present government is in terminal decline is that it is saddled with a PM who cannot even command the respect of the Press Gallery: Yet the significance of Parliament as the crucible of our political system is lost among this encyclopaedia of gostip and

Great and the other Terrible, even

By contrast, Antony Jay's Oxford Dic-tionary of Political Quotations provides a sharp insight into the heat of politi-cal exchange. Mrs Thatcher is wividly portrayed, in Matthew Parris's sketch of her introduction into the House of Lords, as "a big cat detained briefly in a poodle parlour, sharpening her claws on the velver". And the best of the past is here - Tom Paine, for example, more acerbic than any modern sketch writer, reporting the failure of Burke in debate: He rose like a rocket, he fell like a

Yet the collection is also absolutely contemporary with generous entries for both Tony Blair and John Major. Iain Macleod's entries express better than any others the wit and invective of debate. How could an opponent recover from this charge: "I cannot help it if every time the Opposition are asked to name weapons they pick a boomerang"?
The success of the Dictionary is that

most entries were intended for publication, and many are polished gems. This is indeed a companion with which to while away a late-night sitting. I would not be entirely surprised to detect some of the quotations being recycled to adorn the occasional speech. There is, after all, no greater praise a parliamentarian can offer than a threat

Crash test dummies

Sean French prefers high-tech hardware to cardboard characters

Airtrame by Michael Crichton, Century, £16.99

Michael Crichton is that he isn't much good at the things hest-selling writers are supposed to be good at. He has almost no interest in story-telling or plot construction. The climactic twist in each of his last three thrillers (which all concern companies on the verge of a big deal) depends on the pivotal event being accidentally recorded: by a security camera in Rising Sun, by an answering machine in Disclosure, by a camcorder in Airframe. He can't write action scenes; unfortunately, he writes them anyway, and the example in the new book is both tedious and almost

laughably irrelevant. bureaucratic processes, the very things that most literary novelists skimp on, and he manages to make them exciting. This can have some pecuthrilling, page-turning part of Jurassic Park was the first 150 pages or so, with all the technical details about how dinosaur DNA might be that flying is far safer than

the interesting use of chaos theory (botched in the film) to explain why the dinosaur theme park was likely to go wrong. It was the last half of the book, in which cardboard dinosaurs pursued cardboard characters, that was barely readable.

This is why Michael Crichton's finest project is ER, a television show that has eliminated the traditional structure of stories and relationships and is based almost entirely on the absorbing detail of what goes on in a casualty department. A team of brilliant writers and actors added one more ingredient living human beings, a species

Crichton also has a canny, often unpleasant, instinct for dark primitive fears: of genetic engineering in Jurassic Park; of foreigners in Rising Sun; of powerful women in Disclosure; and in Airframe.

Even those of us who know

pulses quicken on page two: "She clutched at her daughter, pulling her close. Now it felt like the plane was going straight down, and then suddenly it was going up, and her stomach was pressed into the

Airframe begins with a mysterious incident on a passenger flight that leaves three passengers dead and the aircraft interior almost totally destroyed. The explanation must be found in a week, or the plane's manufacturer will

this is not a thriller about air safety. It is a thriller about the perception of air safety, which is a much more interesting and complicated subject. Consequently. Crichton's leading character is not the chief of the accident investigation but Cascy Singleton. the Quality Assurance rep on the Incident Review Team. She must not only find out what went wrong but deal with the irresponsible press reaction. This relatively con-

plane's manufacturer, its clients all over the world, the company's workers and the

Crichton's account of the relationship between them is awesomely impressive. He may describe a woman as if he has only read about one in a manual, but he is wonderfully particular about what exactly happens in an investigation. the way things work and, just as important, the way things don't work.

The weirdly gifted Crichton can make the question of document storage seem exciting and a night-time chase through an aircraft hangar seem boring. There is a brilliant three-page scene on how to be interviewed on televi-

The final twist is a bit of a disappointment, especially if, like me, you have read the news item which gave Crichton the idea. But the pages of my copy have gone puffy from being read for too long in the bath: a far more telling sign of

Gross indecency

Michael Arditti convicts the '50s Establishment of vicious bigotry

Heterosexual Dictatorship by Patrick Higgins, Fourth Estate, £18.99

heard the dread words "I shall now read the minutes of the last meeting" will have reason to fear Patrick blow-by-blow account of the workings of the Wolfenden Committee, Fortunately, these fears are soon dispelled by Higgins' account of a key, if largely symbolic, moment in the liberalisation of British sexual mores.

Higgins is concerned to challenge many myths about the committee and, in particular, about its chairman who, since his death, has been elevated to the pantheon of sec-ular saints. Higgins paints a picture of a craven careerist, toadying to official witnesses, while barely courteous to the 'criminal" Peter Wildeblood. Although in a minority, he refused to recommend a gay age of consent of 18.

Those looking for a working definition of the British Establishment could do worse than take the lawyers, doctors, churchmen, MPs, academics and one peer who made up the

myone who has ever "liberal" peer, Goronwy Rees, treatment and opponents who reports of court cases, which wrote a series of articles in The People about his friend, Guy Burgess, in which he described him as a Jekvll and Hyde with "depraved tastes". In fact, it was Rees himself who exhibited the split personality, a lone voice of tolerance in committee while demanding a witch-hunt in the tabloid press.

Some of the committee's antics resemble a Whitehall farce. To safeguard their female clerical workers, they decided on the euphemisms Huntleys (homosexuals) and **Palmers** (prostitutes). Wolfenden opposed hearing evidence from homosexuals themselves for fear of attracting exhibitionists. He had no idea of the numbers of men involved and refused to accept the Kinsey Report.

Higgins documents the virulent homophobia of the period. True to its 19th-century model, homosexuality was regarded as a disease by liberals and reactionaries alike. The distinction lay between reformers who saw it as a mental disorder that needed

considered it an infection that would corrupt society. The church maintained its antagonism, the Bishop of Rochester even declaring that he found himself "feeling more sympathy with a curate or scoutmaster who has offended with a boy than with two men misbehaving together."

Press coverage, with a few exceptions, was grossly indecent. The rush for advertisers and circulation battles led to coarsening of sensibilities in both journalists and readers. Parliamentary prejudice ran rife; although, remarkably, the young Margaret Thatcher proved to be a constant supporter of reform. In the Lords, Archbishop Ramsay's admission that he knew the differled one peer to claim that he had "turned Hansard into a

piece of pornography. In the second part, Higgins provides extensive documentation of 1950s homophobia. This section is less analytical and less effective - than the first, consisting largely of short again by the end of the book.

diet of the seamier Sunday newspapers. There are sad tales of blackmail and extortion, evidence of the lengths to which lonely men would go to obtain a little love. The behaviour of one Gloucester Cathedral curate reads like a Le Carré spy tale. We learn of a vicar who asked an 18-year-old to view his model railway and a farmer whose teenage boyfriends slept over because they were "crazy about milk-ing". They, like so many oth-

ers, were found guilty. Reading this material demonstrates how radically society has changed in the past 40 years, and yet the 1950s distinction between the good homosexual (heterosexual in all but sex) and the bad homosexual (challenging, promiscuous) remains. Higgins belongs to the activist, street-theatre rather than teawith-John-Major tendency. But anyone who considers the title unwarranted in a liberal democracy will have thought

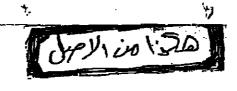
'Far and away the best autobiography of the year'- The Independent

ROBERT ROBINSON **MEMOIRS**

Skip all that

'Robinson is a superb professional broadcaster, but is also, as this entertaining and colourful volume shows, a superb writer' - The Spectator

"...we should cherish him as we used to cherish Evelyn Waugh" -Sheridan Morley, The Independent





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n early December, a newsprint blizzard swamps us with advice on which books to buy for Christmas. Canny punters know that this sage counsel adds up to no more than log-rolling either for bookshop chains, or to boost the egos of those hothouse flowers who fill books-of-the-year slots. Yet sceptical consumers at this time crave an antidote to hype. This column tries to fill that gap, and sweetens the unseasonal vinegar with

some ideas for better buys.

It would (for example) be a crying shame if anyone who wants a guide to pop opted for the nerdy lists in O's Encyclopedia of Rock Stars (Dorling Kindersley) rather than the wit and nous of The Rough Guide to Rock (Penguin). But sometimes hvoe-evasion has more to do with value than merit. There's nothing wrong with Longitude (Fourth Estate). Dava Sobel's tale of horological skullduggery, except that it's a longish article decked out in hard covers. The cornucopia of breakthroughs in John Carey's Faber Book of Science could see readers

right through into 1997. Sometimes, though, a gulf іл quality hints at a deeper cultural chasm. Sir Roy Strong's overpriced Story of Britain (Hutchinson) delivered insular heritage history while Norman Davies's Europe: a history (Oxford) brought a continent to pulsating life - for a tenner less.

The familiar name also proved the unwise choice in crime fiction. Colin Dexter's Death Is Now My Neighbour (Macmillan) revealed its author's limits; retire Morse and hire any deft whodunnit by Reginald Hill (Harper-Collins). You can also forget plodding John Grisham (The Runaway Jury, Century) while Scott Turow has his latest thinking-person's blockbuster on the shelves (The Laws of our Fathers, Viking).

Even readers daft enough to buy books by actors need a helpful hint or two: for instance, about Alec Guinness's My Name Escapes Me (Hamish Hamilton) - so slight, you're amazed it doesn't float away like thistledown. However, even thesps can manage gravitas at times: see Claire Bloom's riveting memoir. Leaving a Doll's House (Virago).

Bloom transforms her emotional knots into readable prose. No such concern bothers Adam Phillips, the decade's smartest shrink, in Monoganiv (Faber). Whatever these coy riddles teach, it isn't Emotional Intelligence (Bloomsbury): Daniel Goleman's humane account of why nice guys finish first.

I meant to close this Xmas blacklist with a dig at Melvyn Bragg's Dark Ages doorstop. Credo (Hodder). After all. people who hanker for a long dull chronicle set in the remote past can always read Tony Blair's Desert Island Book: Scott's Ivanhoe. Then I sat opposite someone who was not only immersed in Bragg's 7th-century quagmire, but 95 per cent of the way through. Soppy Yuletide thoughts returned. Better, surely, to cherish an imperfeet book than none at all.

Boyd Tonkin

Dis-Consulate at Waterloo

Does Euro-integration have its roots in the Napoleonic wars? Amanda Foreman reports

gration from the road to Waterloo? This is the real question behind Alistair Horne's study of Napoleon's decline and Gregor Dallas account of the 1815 Congress of Vienna.

Their answer is - not very far at all. Horne's How Far From Austerlitz (Macmillan, £20) is foremost a gripping narrative of Napoleon's downward spiral from Emperor to exile. He portrays his hero as a proud and complicated man whose far-reaching ambition blinded him to his challenges at close range. He was born Nabulione Buona-

parte in 1769, the second son of a minor Corsican family. Napoleon swiftly rose through the ranks of the French revolutionary army to become a general before he was 25. At 30, after successful campaigns in Italy and Egypt he mounted a coup d'état against the Directory and proclaimed himself First Consul.

By 1807, Napoleon directly ruled more than 44 million people. The French empire stretched from Hamburg to Rome, and the rest of Europe - except Britain - was either marshalled into Kingdoms under his numerous family or yoked into his Continental System. So, asks Horne, what went wrong?

His explanation lies with Napoleon's psychology. The Emperor was so dazzled by his triumph at Austerlitz that he refused to listen to Talleyrand's counsel of moderation and imposed the harshest terms on the defeated Allies. His arrogance forced France onto a footing of continuous war with the rest of Europe and made her eventual exhaustion inevitable. By 1812, when Napoleon invaded Russia, he was without friends abroad and vulnerable at home. The Russian winter decimated his 600,000 strong army and the Third Coalition easily routed the survivors.

Horne has an unrivalled ability to transform military manoeuvres into striking cinematic images. Few historians today can match the force and breadth of his vision. In so far

Napoleon it is a triumph and should be required reading for anyone interested in French history.

The only quibble is with Horne's somewhat forced parallels between Napoleon and Hitler. Of course there are superficial similarities; yes, Napoleon and Hitler were both geographical outsiders to their countries, and both invaded Russia on 22 June. But Napoleon liberated; Hitler enslaved. Napoleon marched into Russia with a single army. Hitler invaded on three fronts. He also expected help from the Finns, and when his army halted outside Moscow it was to adopt a defensive position - a tactic that benefits from winter conditions.

In his epilogue, Horne directly addresses the "British Eurosceptics of the 1990s" and advises them to accept the necessity of European integration. Europe's coalitions prove that isolated powers "are usually doomed." This contention raises two issues. First, his analogy between modern European integration with old-fashioned military co-operation is a false one. Britain has participated in European military coalitions since the Crusades. It does not follow that Eurosceptics' desire to remain outside the ERM would leave Britain "doomed".

Second, it is not clear whether the anti-Bonaparte coalitions played any meaningful part in Napoleon's defeat. The First Coalition between Russia, Prussia, Austria, Spain and Britain collapsed in 1796, leaving Britain isolated. The Second Coalition lasted for three years to 1802 and again Britain was isolated, the Third was barely more than a name before 1812, and for most of the war Britain struggled on her own with almost every port in Europe closed to her, Until Russia's triumph, the only notable successes against Napoleon were achieved by the Royal Navy and by Wellington in Spain.

Gregor Dallas's 1815: The Road to Waterloo (Richard Cohen Books, £25) begins with the Third Coali-

ow far is European inte- as his book concentrates on tion meeting to discuss the dismemberment of Napoleon's empire at the Congress of Vienna. The French monarchy was restored. The map of Europe was brutally redrawn without regard to nationalities, and the eight signatories agreed on a system of co-operation. Although Dallas doesn't address the Eurosceptics of the 1990s personally, many of his remarks are clearly pointed in their direction. The Congress of Vienna was, in his opinion, akin to "a parliamentary assembly of the states of Europe" and remains one of the great achievements of the 19th century.

Dallas is not as elegant a writer as Horne, but he combines a mastery of detail with a vivid, almost racy style. He makes a technical subject - the diplomacy of Metter-nich, Talleyrand, Castlereagh, and Tsar Alexander I - extraordinarily compelling. But his enthusiasm for the Congress goes too far. He misrepresents Castlereagh as a proto-Euro-integrationist although the Foreign Secretary went to Vienna simply to preserve peace in Europe by maintaining the balance of power. As evidence that "within days" of arriving Castlereagh had "become a European", Dallas cites his hope that co-operation between Great Powers would give them the efficiency and almost the simplicity of a single state".

Castlereagh never envisaged a united or integrated Europe. His concern was the defence of existing frontiers. Metternich and Alexander I on the other hand wanted to defend aristocratic institutions. In practice this meant intervention to crush independence movements in Europe and smother dissent at home. Britain's refusal to take an active part in these counter-revolutionary efforts soon isolated her. In any case, "co-operation" degenerated into rivalry and the Congress soon fell apart. Its lasting legacy to

Europe was insurgent nationalism. One of the participants at the Congress was Admiral Sir Sidney Smith. He had travelled at his own



Napoleon brooding on defeat by Paul Hippotyte Delaroche

expense to lobby ministers for the desired or deserved. Nelson's vic- of insanity. But he was also a superb total abolition of the Slave Trade. His life is the subject of an outstanding biography, A Thirst for Glory by Tom Pocock (Aurum Press, £19.95). Smith - a true English eccentric who attired himself in Turkish costume and ate rats believing they were cleaner than pigs, never received the honours he

tory at Trafalgar cast an ineradicable shadow over his own exploits. Yet Smith was responsible for driving the French out of the Middle East. Napoleon said of him, "that man made me miss my destiny."

Smith had many faults including vanity and a fatal tendency to melodrama. He was reckless to the point

tactician and the first person to тесоgnise the potential of Robert Fulton's designs for torpedoes and submarines. Pocock claims that Smith's reputation would be much higher today if he had not been such a difficult and unpopular colleague. At last, thanks to Pocock, rehabilitation is surely round the corner.

Hartebeeste, mio, with love from Dearduck

Charles Nicholl wonders whether Malcolm Lowry should have written more books and fewer letters

Sursum Corda! The Collected Letters of Malcolm Lowry, Vol II: 1946-57 edited by Sherrill E Grace, Cape, £40

writer's collected letters are a day be read and judged as text? Acurious monument, occupying an ill-defined space between the Life and the Works. They are not quite biography and not quite literature but sometimes seem like a giant, ongoing rough draft.

Malcolm Lowry's voluminous letters are fascinating in this way: rapid, specific, full of raw detail. They can seem totally unguarded, but are probably not. Lowry was an instinctive performer, and his personal letters were written with an car half-cocked to posterity. A letter to his wife here begins "Hartebeeste mio" and ends "All Love, a sense of huge, squandered verbal

Sherrill E Grace's edition of his letters, Sursum Corda!, now completed with this second volume, is almost literally a monument. With 1700 pages, it contains about 1000 letters and manuscripts written from 1926 to 1957. It is certainly exhaustive, and sometimes exhausting. One does not quite get "Two pints Gold Top please", but had

sketch of the milkman. This isn't just the good bits: it's everything. The collection conveys

such a note survived it would duly

be here, with a brief biographical

ble conversational style: fluent, allusive, button-holing, a desperate gin-fuelled geniality one step away from despair. "Sursum corda" (lift up your hearts), was a favourite sign-off line of Lowry's, and there is something strangely uplifting about these letters, even if the uplift is more adrenal than spiritual.

On the surface this is a less picturesque period of Lowry's brief life. The first volume had a certain louche flair - Lowry the black sheep, the drifter, the literary barfly, the womaniser - and some vivid Dearduck": are we eavesdropping energy. As Professor Grace points glimpses of his life in Mexico in the the letters. They will become the on marital intimacy, or did he know out. Lowry should have written that even his pet-names would one more books and fewer letters. It masterpiece, Under the Volcano. We Dark as the Grave Wherein My

also permits a growing familiarity. begin in 1946, with *Under the Vol-*One is regaled by an almost palpacano completed and about to be published. Lowry is in his mid-thirties, settled happily if tempestuously with his second wife, the former Hollywood starlet Margerie Bonner. They are briefly in Haiti, but most of the time at the "beach shack" they owned at Dollarton on the coast of British Columbia.

These Canadian years are full of literary struggle, financial difficulties, black-outs, injuries. Lowry found it increasingly difficult to crystallise his writing into printable form. Eddying drifts of half-formed ideas, synopses and treatment fill

friend is Laid. We catch them here still raw, attached to his own life. He maps out the mood of the story that became October Ferry to Gabriola: "I want to convey that it isn't alcoholism in the true sense but a kind of death, or half life". What he is conveying is his own life, not yet transliterated into fiction.

In 1954, Lowry left the Americas for the last time. He was in bad shape physically and mentally. The following year, in London, he was hospitalised and wrote to his New York publisher, Albert Erskine: "the reaper is omnipresent but it is by no means grim for all that, in fact I spend most of my time shirtless on the cricket pitch in the dew".

He delayed the reaper on this

destruction, but also brute strength. He died, aged 48, in a rented house in Sussex - "by misadventure" as the coroner found, by the ravages of chronic alcoholism in reality - in June 1957. His last letter is to the playwright Harvey Burt, enthusing about a recent trip to Grasmere. It ends with a plangent quotation from Wordsworth's Prelude: "Ye lowly cottages wherein we dwelt/A

ministration of your own was ours". This seems to be a marvellous summation of Lowry's richly errant life, among Mexican dives and Canadian shacks and all the other "lowly cottages" which he chose in preference to the comfortable mansions of his birth and class.

Out of touch at the typewriter

Geoff Dyer finds signs of stiffness in a tour of tactile pleasures

Touch by Gabriel Josipovici. Yale University Press, £19.95

the Jaguar Sun. his proposed these paintings of extreme tembook on the five senses. Could poral suspense. Gabriel Josipovici's "very personal book" help make good this lack? It felt promising. That a wide range of material - Chaplin, Chardin, Chaucer - could be touched on in relatively few pages (150) suggested that this essay might well display the qualities associated with the master: tactilthe cerebral as sensation, and feeling as thought.

Such hopes do not persist long, but there are some nice touches; an informative history of the pilgrimage as "a journey into the experience of distance itself"; a should have given up the game touching comparison of a photo-graph of the author's grandparents

He then took up Aikido where he

swimming in Algeria, Josipovici's

conventional wisdom." That's as

€

The most revealing chapter

begins with Josipovici considering what it means to have "a good touch" at sport. The terrible thing about tennis, he observes, is the way that errors haunt you - but by dwelling on these missed chances you risk that "dread tightening of guishing characteristic as a writer the arm which is a premonition of defeat. This was Borg's great that photo of his grandparents, he ity of ideas, the ability to render of defeat. This was Borg's great strength: "a point played seemed to be over and forgotten as soon the camera, but they are supple as as it was done, leaving him totally yogi compared with their grandfree to concentrate on the next son. His prose is not stiff, it's petone." For his part Josipovici kept rified. Even in his more relaxed playing football "long after [he] with Rembrandt's "The Jewish learned that the ideal state is the meditation on the pleasure of maybe, but Josipovici's insights

talo Calvino didn't get round to Bride," a section on Chardin that Borg-like one in which "you are writing about touch in Under makes one see just how weird are both utterly relaxed and utterly concentrated." To Western minds this might appear contradictory but Josipovici is adamant that this is exactly how one feels when swimming, running or "writing

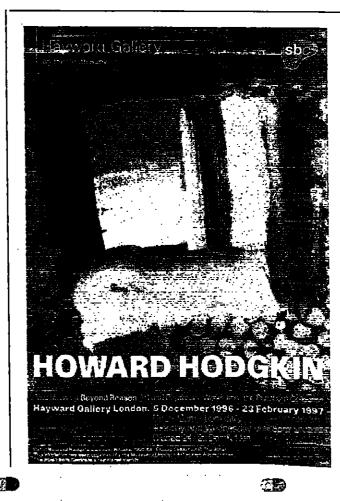
> And with that - precisely because he is so right - he hobbles himself. For Josipovici's distinnotes their "slight stiffness" before moments he lacks what he terms

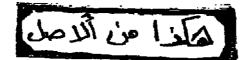
doing so in Egypt is chlorinated, wheezing. His account of walking on the South Downs ("when there is only a mild breeze blowing. when there is springy turf under

foot") is similarly stifling. There is a pompous edge, too, to much of of the commentary, signalled by his fondness for the all-knowing "of course" this is that Josipovici is an academic, and the pipe-smoke staleness away. It is amazing that so much holding forth to students. Genius, he observes at one point, is "nothing more than the ability to push "kinetic melody." Compared with an insight to its limits and not be

are far too limited and are not pushed anything like far enough to qualify. In a way common among devo-

tees of ossified experimentalism, he is also deeply conventional. He is one of those writers for whom the act of writing reaches an apotheosis of purity only when he types out the sentence, "I am ("Morandi of course is the great exception"). Part of the reason for a bit of verbal foreplay in the Prologue - he holds out until the penultimate chapter before sucof the lecture hall is never far cumbing to what might be termed the petite mort de l'ecriture: "Over time in so short a book is spent my notebook I sit hunched up. Over my typewriter, a little more upright. My hand moves over the page. My fingers hit the keys. I am writing." Azh! In the context of a book about touch, what can one say except that it is numb and





Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

The Day Before Yesterday: Five Easter 1081 to 29th May 1453) Million Years of Human History by Colin Tudge (Pimlico, £9.99) Frightening and fascinating in equal measure, this beautifully written mix of eco-history and geopolitics argues that our leaders should be taking a very long view of the future of our environment - indeed, that one million years is not an unreasonable unit of political time. It also shows how swiftly and irreversibly global change can take effect, pointing out that if CFCs had been invented in the laisser-faire epoch of Victorian industrialism, the end of the world would today be unquestionably nigh.

Dreams of Love and Modest Glory by Joan Lingard (Mandarin, £6.99) Big historical novel, taking in the Russian Revolution, two world wars and the collapse of Communism. It opens in 1913 with the double wedding of twin sisters from Aberdeen. One marries a tsarist count, the other a Latvian intellectual, and their love stories open out into a family saga, marked by secrets and lies, spanning three generations. This is a good, effortless read, instantly involving and unpretentious.

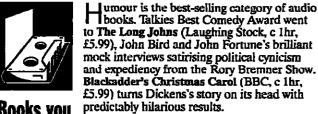
Byzantium: The Decline and Fall by John Julius Norwich (Penguin, £9.99) Anyone seeking a reading project this Christmas will not do better than Lord Norwich's acclaimed trilogy about Byzantium. This dazzling conclusion (from

maintains the same scorching pace and penchant for intriguing detail as the first two volumes (Byzantium: the Early Centuries and Byzantium: The Apogee republished at £9.99 each). The People of Providence by

Tony Parker (Eland, £9.99) A sequence of 49 in-depth interviews from a down-at-heel London housing estate may seem an unusual choice by a publisher who specialises in travel books. But this is an extraordinary work. Parker, who died this year, spent five years on the project. First published in 1983, it merits comparison with Mayhew's London Labour and the London Poor for depth and clear-eyed

The Plastic Tomato Cutter by Michael Curtin (Fourth Estate, £6.99) In alternate chapters, two narrators describe how the Sixties transformed a small lrish community. One is Mr Yendall, the martinet of a fusty gents' outfitters. The other is Tim Harding, an over-educated snooker champ who ekes a living out of Fagend, his oneman agency for the treatment of nicotine addicts. Yendall's world is turned upside-down by long-haired pop groups and the disappearance of the halfcrown. Harding has a more serious problem: consanguinity. He falls for a beauty who turns out to be his sister. Curtin's inventive, beguiling imbroglio is a delight from start to finish.

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Powers of intelligence

Donald Cameron Watt welcomes a new generation of spy-watchers

n six new books on spying and the gathering of intelligence there are no real duds, despite the efforts of the publishers to misrepresent Leslie Collitt's biography of Marcus Wolf, Spymaster. the real life of Karla his moles and the East German Secret Police (Robson £16.95). In fact, Wolf headed the GDR's Foreign Intelliheaded the GDR's Foreign Intelligence Service, not its secet police. Among the others, Bradley Smith's Sharing Secrets with Stalin (University of Kansas Press, £27.95) is outstanding: a dyed-in-the-wood professional study of the intelligence aspects of the uneasy cooperation between the Big Three against Hitler. The rest include one biography; one fascinating account of a uniformed British intelligence-gathering agency, now defunct; and three different studies of other British agencies: the Secret Intelligence Service, the Government Codes and Ciphers Service and the Security Service, now acknowledged - rather than defined - by Act of Parliament.

It would be nice to think that all this marks the end of the persistent breach of the Official Secrets Act by a handful of writers echoing the whinges of disaffected anonymous secret servants, which has for so long passed as the record of British intelligence. A vain hope, I fear. But after Mark Urban's impressive catalogue of the great and the good among his informants in UK Eyes Alpha (Faber, £16.99), Michael Smith's trawling of the Public Record Office, New Cloak, Old Dagger (Gollancz, £20) and Michael Herman's serious, officially encouraged, efforts to provide the intelligence services with a the-oretical underpinning, Intelligence Power in Peace and War (Cam-bridge, £50, £16.95), the wingeechoers should be the more easily

Bradley Smith's previous study of Anglo-American wartime intelligence co-operation has already made the continuation of that cooperation a cliché of studies of the Special Relationship". His gift for disinterring from the public records in London and Washington what the censors fondly believe to lie fathom-deep in their most secret after Hiroshima, the US went on



Marcus Wolf (centre, between his father and brother, Friedrich): "East German desk warrior"

repositories is legendary. Sharing
Secrets with Stalin lacks Soviet sources: but its revelations of bow sources: but its revelations of bow the professional intelligencers of the Big Three coped with the conflict between their ideological suspicions of each other and their need for victory, and how the degree of exchange fluctuated as the military successes of each enhanced their standing in the eyes of their opposites, makes this a yardstick for the closeness of the East-West alliance. The British came off very badly. Smith's demonstration that even

that Hiroshima was the first shot in the Cold War.

In Beyond the Front Line (HarperCollins, £20), Tony Geraghty - ex-para and specialist in SAS derring-do - writes of Brixmis, the former British Military Liaison Group with Soviet forces in East Germany. Their concentration on Soviet troop movements and military installations led to violent, potentially lethal, confrontations files and Wolf himself. Under him But its neglect will cost Brita with Soviet or GDR security forces. East, German intelligence agents treasure, let alone lives.

the cause of peace by allaying fears of Soviet military build-ups and

Leslie Collitt's title is an uneccessary nonsense. Unlike Karla, Smiley's opponent in Le Carré's televised trilogy, Marcus Wolf was an East German desk warrior, Moscow-trained and Moscow-appointed to head East German foreign intelligence. Collitt's sources are Stasi

seduced their way into the heart of West German politics. Collitt's study is the most comprehensive so far available in English.

The journalists Mark Urban and Michael Smith complement each other. Urban's UK Eyes Alpha is compulsive reading on the Whitehall compulsive reading on the Whitehall in-fighting between the secret services and Mrs Thatcher's mania for control. In New Cloak, Old Dagger, Smith is particularly good on Neithern Ireland. Between them they lay many of the myths perpetuated by the literary buckets that catch dissident leaks. Aficionados will need, to read both. Smith weakens his own read both. Smith weakens his own solid research with some very dodgy historical sources, and Urban apparently believes his sources told him everything - a dangerous ploy in writing intelligence history. He has also talked to too many ex-CIA US nationalists whose Who-needs-youold-boy Anglophobia has made him 👂

overly pessimistic about the future. Common to these approaches is an inability to distinguish between military and political intelligence about other countries. By contrast with the other great powers in the first half of this century, Britain concentrated on the former as well as the latter. It made the security agencies arms of the Foreign Office, not the forces or the police. This raises the question of how much secret intelligence really counts in the overall political assessment of the external world.

It is to this that Michael Herman (among much else) directs himself. His indispensable Intelligence Power in Peace and War is based on the marises with skill and clarity. What is available, however, is largely generated by American views of the US-Soviet confrontation. None of this is very helpful to the adaptation of intelligence work to the problems of a world still full of threats to Britain's interests. As our effective power dwindles, the need for reliable assessment and for political and public confidence in it increases. Secret intelligence may only constitute ten per cent of the total picture ten per cent of the time, as a hard-But its neglect will cost Britain



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A slave to liberal passions

Godfrey Hodgson dethrones a Founding Father

The Long Affair: Thomas Jefferson and the French Revolution by Conor Cruise O'Brien, Sinclair-Stevenson, £25

Three monuments dominate the Mall in Washington, celebrating the trinity of the American civil religion. A tall obelisk commemorates George Washington, father of American independence. A porticoed temple celebrates Lincoln. the renewer of the covenant. And a dome, reflected in the Tidal Basin, glorifies Thomas Jefferson, near-holy spirit of the American ideology.

Inside the Jefferson memorial, a number of texts were inscribed, including three about slavery: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever. Commerce between master and slave is despotism. Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that

these people are to be free." The last sentence, taken from Jefferson's Autobiography, is incomplete. It continues, as Conor Cruise O'Brien points out, to state that "Nor is it less certain that the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government. Native habit, opinion has drawn indelible lines of distinction between them.'

The suppression of the second half is only a detail in the long campaign to conceal the awkward fact that the imperishable author of the ringing declaration that all men were created equal was not only a slave-owner but also a racist.

Nor can this be brushed aside with the defence that he only reflected the prejudices of his time. George Washington did not share Jefferson's racism. Jefferson believed, as Washington did not, that there was no future for black people in the United States and he therefore advocated that, freed slaves should be sent "back where they came from", in the phrase beloved of modern British racists.

The evidence O'Brien deploys has been painstakingly accumulated by a whole younger generation of American historians. It includes



Thomas Jefferson: "hypocritical"

the fact that Jefferson tried to write into the laws of Virginia two proposals that were too strong even for his fellowslave-owners. One would have made it illegal for free Negroes to enter the state, or to stay there once freed. The other would have removed from "the protection of the laws" any white woman who bore a black man's child: an

invitation to lynching. Thanks to earlier southern historians, it is widely believed that Jefferson, although a slave-owner, wanted to abolish slavery. He did condemn slavery, and no doubt he hated it, if only because of the contradiction between his ideology of liberty and the reality of his life. But he went to great lengths to recapture and punish his own runaways.

Unlike Washington, he did not free his own slaves in his will with the exception of four who were probably his own children. O'Brien accepts that we shall not know for certain whether Jefferson was the father of Beverley, Harriet. Madison and Eston Hemings, the children of his servant Sally Hemings, until DNA testing has been carried out on their remains. The guardians of the Jefferson asked, "that we hear the loud-

on the tale that Sally was Jefferson's mistress. But what is not in doubt is that Sally was the half-sister of Jefferson's own wife, daughter of a liaison between Martha Jefferson's father and a slave.

It is not the chief purpose of O'Brien's book to portray Jefferson as a racist or a hypocrite. Its theme is his role as the principal champion in America of the French Revolution. Although generations of Jeffersonians have portrayed their hero as a pillar of an American democratic tradition far removed from the ferocity of Robespierre, O'Brien notes that Jefferson continued to defend the atrocities in France. After the king's execution, Jefferson as Secretary of State wrote to his chargé d'affaires in Paris that were there but an Adam and an Eve left in every country, and left free, it would be better than as it now is".

Not until long after the Terror did Jefferson condemn the Revolution. And then, suggests O'Brien, one significant factor was Robespierre's proposal, in response to the slave rebellion in Haiti, to emancipate the slaves in all French and British colonies.

How is it", Dr Johnson cult have always poured scorn est yelps for liberty from the

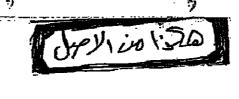
drivers of negroes?" The remark has usually been dismissed as a cheap shot from a resentful Tory. But O'Brien suggests there may indeed have been a connection between the cult of Liberty in Virginia and slavery. Liberty to white Virginians included the liberty to own slaves.

Nothing can now change the fact, he believes, that the US will increasingly be a multi-racial society. The mainstream will therefore soon eject Jefferson from the American trinity. He will be left to that minority who defend white supremacy and States' Rights. Both suspects in the Oklahoma City bombing claimed him as an inspiration. Timothy McVeigh, when arrested; was wearing a T-shirt inscribed "The tree of liberty must be refreshed

from time to time with the

blood of patriots and tyrants."
The traditional view of Jefferson is that he was a passionate advocate of liberty for all trapped in the position of owning slaves. O'Brien brings to Jefferson his suspicion of the harm done by revolution-ary rhetoric in light and his sympathy for Edmund Burke's negative view of the French Revolution. Making allowance for that, he has put the torch of his persuasive gifts to the evidence heaped up by revisionist historians. Together they have scorched the marble statesman of the Tidal Basin. The questions about Jefferson's ideological legacy raise questions about the nature of US civil religion - and the extent to which it extends its offer of equality to those who are not white North Americans.

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How many were in St Ives?

Harriet O'Brien, Travel Writer of the Year,

enjoys the quiet of



CORNWALL OUT OF SEASON The view from the Tate Gallery café of Porthmeor beach, one of the windlest and most dramatic parts of St Ives

PHOTOGRAPH: HARRIET O'BRIEN

of them. Big seas, big winds, a luminous quality of light, and art - living, as well as hung on walls - are all part of the equation. Forget sunshine, sandcastles and icecream on the beach; Cornwall out of season is inspiring, exhilarating - and half

It was doubtless due to the lack of visitors that the pig was so pleased to see us. over the clifftops beyond St Ives last week. closure to greet us, and to be admired. Her pink snout whiffled against the wire fence as she presented her ears to be scratched. Great waves pounded the rocks below us, and she seemed to capture the spirit of the place; an open friendliness in total contrast to the wildness of the landscape and the elements.

At this time of year there is scope for the people (as well as the animals) of St Ives to stop and chat. An explanation from a shopkeeper about the finer points of Cornish honey might meander gently on to some considered advice as to where to see the most dramatic cliff scenery, then take a sharp right angle and develop into a discussion about local opinion of the Tate Gallery. This opened in St Ives in June 1993 and, rather than getting a predicted 70,000 visitors a year, has been averaging 200,000. The Tate, understandably, is a popular topic. "Oh, it's been fairly good for business," the honey man remarked in quiet understatement. "It attracts a steady stream of visitors even at times like this when St Ives would otherwise be pretty much closed down. And yes, most of us do like it. Very much. But then

there are so many artists here anyway." It was a local potter who made my pot: a tall earthenware vase, its glaze subtly

t was the pig that did it. And a pot. I couldn't help grandly thinking, of the Yet when I go back to St Ives next works of Bernard Leach. It sat in a shop making everything seem like an exhibit. December it won't be only because window alongside pictures by resident painters, and little bits of knick-knackery: glass ornaments of cute cats, and quaint pottery figures. Like St Ives itself, which manages to cater for both a summer beach brigade and an influx of gallerygoers, there was something for everyone.

To see many of the paintings, ceramics and sculptures that transformed the little harbour town from a sleepy fishing We came across her as we were walking village into a significant art centre, you go to the Tate. This is not simply an ersatz Emitting small squeals of delight, she arm of the modern art gallery in London. ant works, have strong associations with the area: ceramics by Bernard Leach and his Japanese colleague Shoji Hamada; wonderfully lit sculpture by Barbara Hepworth; and, of course, works by Ben Nicholson, Christopher Wood and Alfred Wallis. The now-legendary meeting between Nicholson, Wood and Wallis is considered to have been the turningpoint in the artistic fortunes of St Ives. (What, one wonders, did old sailor Walhis make of Nicholson and Wood when, on that famous visit to St Ives in August 1928, the young artists walked straight into his home, exclaiming about Wallis's naive paintings, having seen them by chance through the open door?) A special exhibition of Wood's works from 1923 to 1930 - when the artist was, bizarrely, killed by a train in Salisbury - is currently on display. Yet there's more to the Tate than the art on show. For a start, it's got one of the best cafés in town. Sipping a cappuccino from the vantage point here, you look down over the steep, cobbled alleyways of St Ives, and gaze over the higgledy-piggledy mix of roofs. The building, in fact, holds as many surprises as the exhibits. Set opposite Porthmeor Beach, one of the windiest parts of the little town, it absorbs much shot through with the mellow colours of the mesmerising play of light from the the cliffs in changing light. Reminiscent, sea scenery. Such reflections have the

down to the cakes in the café and the other visitors. And, despite the quality of the art on the walls and in glass cases, you can't help feeling that one of the finest shows in the Tate is the view from the enormous picture window in the Long Gallery, which frames the beach scene

The sea and wind were in fine form on the day we were there. From the warmth of the gallery we watched a group of surfers scooting over the waves and enjoying some of the best (albeit chilly) conprovided the most spectacular performance. He caught the wind superbly. Gripping his strings tightly, he was sent skidding across the sand as his canopy leapt and ducked excitedly. Occasionally the force of it all took him right off the ground. It was as if he was lifted up by his own exhilaration.

Such displays of energy are a far cry from the small museum of Barbara Hepworth's sculpture, set in the artist's former home, where she died in a fire in her studio in 1975. There's an appropriately static quality here, as if time stopped then. In the little garden, also created by Hepworth, you walk among large bronzes of differing shapes at every angle, sitting stoically alongside exotic plants and foliage. A small path leads to her workshop; here smocks hang by the door and large blocks of stone still wait to be transformed.

You start to understand why Hepworth created her strange images when you walk along the cliffs west of St Ives. The area just around from Land's End is particularly rich in extraordinary formations of granite boulders that seem impossibly perched above sheer drops. To get there you have to walk through the Land's End complex. From the promotional literature and several critical reports, I had expected this would be something of a theme park gnomery. And and as you look out over the Atlantic

Cornish essentials

(01736 796226) is open 11am-5pm Tuesday-Sunday. Adults £3, concessions £1.50, under 16s free when accompanied by an adult. The Christopher Wood exhibition runs until 20 April 1997, Barbara Hepworth's house 1736 796226) at the same time as the Tate. Adults £2, concessions £1.50, under-16s free when accompanied by an adult. Joint ticket with the Tate

Land's End is open daily from 10am until sunset (01736 871501). Several shops and a few attractions - the Last Labyrinth, the Spirit of Cornwall, and Greeb Farm – are open during the winter. Entrance to the complex and the

shows : adults £3 (including car parking), children £1, car parking only, £2.

Where to shop: The Wills Lane Gallery on Wills Lane (01736 796297) has an impressive collection for serious buyers. The New Craftsman, 24 Fore Street (01736 795652). has a more eclectic mix of good paintings and pottery.

Who to ask: The St ives tourist office (01736 796297). The staff can supply details of buses to Land's End and other places beyond town. Where to stay: St Ives is saturated with B&Bs. For details of those remaining open during the winter, contact the local tourist office (see above). Harriet O'Brien paid £18 per night at the Grey

Mullet Guest House, 2

Bunkers Hill, in the centre of the town (01735 796635): Where to eat: Many restaurants are closed during the winter, but the Sloop Inn ~ dating from

1312 – on the harbour serves locally caught fish and other dishes provided you order before 8.30pm. Excellent fresh fish is also on offer at Peppers Pizzeria, 22 Fore Street.

English

certainly the idea of paying an entrance fee to stand on a small slice of land that is neither the most southerly, nor the most westerly point in the British mainland seemed absurd (the real extremities being, respectively, Lizard Point and either Ardnamurchan Point or Meist in Skye depending on whether you think the new Skye bridge constitutes a sufficient link to the mainland). However, once you arrive at Land's End you can see what all the

fuss is about. The scenery is spectacular

between you and America.

The complex itself, offering video shows about the area, shopping opportunities and a range of other activities, may become unpleasantly crowded in the summer, but in December it is half closed and more or less deserted. Very pleasant it was, too. And then there was the matter of the pig. She belonged to Greeb able, the kitsch is optional.

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Ocean from the tip of this odd arm of England, you can't help feeling overawed tractions." The workshops here were shut by the thought that only a few specks of for the winter, but a few animals remained islands - the Scillies and the Azores - lie on show, and all of them - goats, pig, teenage kittens and ducks - behaved as if they had been to charm school.

Back in St Ives it might have been tempting to buy a little pottery image of a pig as a memento to take home, along with my pot. But at this time of year in Cornwall, while the great gusts of fresh air and the natural artistry are unavoid-

Frequent flyer? Prepare for delays

or the past year I have been tracking assiduously the punctuality of every flight I have taken. This may strike you as a singularly sad way to spend one's time, but the results confirm what many frequent travellers suspect that the chances are more likely than not that your flight will be delayed. Of nearly 50 nights, two-thirds were delayed by anything from five minutes to three

The most consistently tardy carrier is British Airways, with an average delay of 20 minutes, but this reflects the fact that I have used it more than any other - and that BA has to cope with the two crowded home bases of Heathrow and Garwick.

The survey begins with a 45-minute delay on a BA flight from Heathrow to Harare (ascribed to "missing passengers") and ends with a 15-minute late Chicago to Heathrow hop on American Airlines ("a

few last-minute hags"). In between, explanations for delays have ranged from the catch-all "operational



difficulties" to the hardly more informative cause given bluntly by a Delta pilot between Atlanta and Orlando: "weather".

In some ways it has been a good year: unlike the last couple, all the planes have landed at roughly the right airport on approximately the right day. There was just one aborted landing (on Cyprus Turkish Airlines at Antalya) and one curtailed take-off (a Caledonian Airways TriStar from

Manchester to Mombasa). This flight turned out to he the most delayed of all, reaching Kenya three hours late. But this was in a summer when some passengers experienced delays of more than two

days - my colleague Wendy Berliner spent 53 hours in Orlando failing to travel with Airtours International to Gatwick. And whenever you, like me, are tempted to grumble about a modest delay, it is well worth remembering that we are extraordinarily privileged to be able to undertake relatively fast, relatively comfortable travel to the ends of the earth for

implausibly low fares. Some people, of course, are more privileged than others - notably those in the premium cabin. I am sorry to report that the "upgrade tie" that I carry habitually, and put on just before check-in, in the hope of a seat in business class, has worked just once.

ir 2000 does not appear in my survey, but it would feature high in any list of soon-tobe-outdated names. हुन Fortunately, readers have responded generously in their suggestions for a new name for the charter carrier to take it into the w millennium. A convoy of suggestions

as to what the airline could call itself once the year 2000 is over has been touching down over the past fortnight. Mr E Wright of Fleetwood recommends Millenair, while Mike Marshall of Bromsgrove has a name that will be valid for just 12 months - Air in

Peter Mair of London notes that Air 2000 offers tall people extra legroom, and offers "Air 2001 - a Leg Space Odyssey". Mr Mair also says that another charter airline, Monarch, will book seats with extra space to tall travellers without the need to supply a doctor's letter, as required by Air 2000. "To achieve this, as soon as one is booked on a Monarch flight, phone 01582 ..."

The responsibility for this number being incomplete is mine, not Mr Mair's. When I tried the number he suggested, the airline confirmed that it will do its best to assign an emergency exit row to tall travellers but refused me permission to publish the number you need to call to request assistance. It seems that

service, but prefers its customers not to know about it.

Meanwhile, perhaps Air 2000 will grant an upgrade, or at least extra legroom, to those whose suggestions appear above.

s MPs disperse from A Westminster for the last Christmas holiday of this parliament, some of them will be looking forward to foreign visits as part of a Commons select committee.

Writing in Travel Weekly, the Labour MP Nigel Griffiths reveals that members of the Defence Select Committee have bagged Ankara, Athens, Brussels, Gibraltar, Naples, New York, Paris and Washington DC. They did rather better than the Catering Committee: "Its one exotic trip consisted of a visit to British Rail's onboard services training school in Euston". One committee member who mis-heard news of the impending trip spent some time fondly anticipating a trip to Houston, Texas.

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So who will sponsor the snow?

Stephen Wood on the arcane and inventive system that enriches - and cheapens - skiing

ccording to a survey of high carners in sport, published last week by Total Sport magazine, the racing driver Damon Hill was paid £7m this year. Anyone who has watched Grands Prix on television will have an idea where that sort of money comes from. This year, his car was a 200mph billboard for Rothmans cigarettes and Sanyo audio, among other products; previously, it has sold Labatt's beer, Canon cameras and Sega video games.

Motor racing is one of those sports that sponsors love. Unlike, say, World Cup foot-hall, where the advertising hoardings are just part of the background scenery, Grand Prix TV coverage focuses permanently on the promotional vehicles themselves, beaming sponsors' logos into hundreds of millions of homes around the world.

Why am I telling you all this in a ski-ing column? Because World Cup ski racing offers similar sponsorship potential. But if you watch BBC2's Ski Sunday, which returns for a new season at 5.10pm tomorrow, you will struggle to see the sort of big brand names that adorn racing cars. There is plenty to read on the competitors' ski suits, skis and poles, even their goggle straps. (Ignore the racing bibs, which belong to the event sponsors.) But all the names, with few exceptions, are those of skiwear and ski equipment manufacturers. Ski racing is still run in the traditional way, by national skiing federations, with rules designed to prevent nonski-industry sponsors from cheapening, and enriching, the sport.

When Martin Bell retired last year, he

was the most successful British men's skier of recent times. But in his final two years of competition, when the British team was poorly sponsored, he didn't command a hig salary: he made a loss. Like the rest of us, he paid to go skiing. So at the age of 31, he took his first nine-to-five job, as ski consultant to the Daily Mail Ski Magazine, to pay off his debts. The sponsorship rules ensure that even the top racers, says Bell, earn sums which are paltry in comparison with other sports: he doubts that Albert Tomba - a winner of Olympic golds, World Championships and World Cups and a big star in Italy - makes more than a million dollars a year.

The "Rules and Precisions" of the



Albert Tomba: big in Italy, but a low earner compared to other sports stars

commercial markings comprise a long list of "don'ts", and a dense specification of sites and measurements for permitted displays. The rules proceed from the assumption that manufacturers should be allowed have supplied to competitors. The fact that the brand name must go on the equipment itself has had curious consequences - such item - but a goggle strap is very visible on

International Ski Federation (FIS) on as the case of the ski-wax maker which

went into the goggle business.

Martin Bell explains: "Briko was a skiwax company which supplied the Italian team. They got some good results with the wax - but Briko couldn't get much publicity to draw attention to the equipment they out of its success". A name on a wax package gets no TV exposure, "so Briko started making goggles. They are a fairly cheap

sibility of, say, Coca-Cola having a few pairs of goggles made up for competitors with its logo on the strap - but the International Ski Federation's article 211.2.3 closed that loophole by requiring that the straps be "as on products sold to the public".

The Federation does, however, permit industry brand names, where the national outfit, also of 50 sq cm. Unfortunately,

TV". This seemed to open up the pos-ski federations have done sponsorship deals. The British Ski Federation (BSF) has allowed its team members to have a personal headband sponsor". Its illustration specifies "one logo, max size 50 sq cm, positioned at front, above national emblem". And having found no overall team sponsor, the BSF has also released tightly controlled display of non-ski- to the skiers its "Badge 4" site on the ski

only one, Martin Bell's younger brother Graham, has found a sponsor. If you see his name on the caption on Ski Sunday tomorrow you may also, says the BSF's Fiona McLean, be able to make out the names of Nielson Holidays (personal headband sponsor) and Paul Mitchell hair care products (Badge 4).

Later in the Ski Sunday season you have season the name of a Slovenian n Brno

could also see the name of a Slovenian kitchen supplier flying across the screen. A curious wrinkle in the FIS rules - of which the Slovenian national team, among others, has taken full advantage - permits Nordic ski-jumpers to carry the names of non-ski industry sponsors on their skis.

Why do competitive skiers still allow national federations and notional amateur status to restrict their earnings? Other sports, notably golf and tennis, have broken free of such controls, and World Cup skiing, with its extensive TV coverage and star names (on the Continent, if not in Britain), clearly has the potential to do the same. I clearly has the potential to do the same of loop's out my finger on it? pened, and I can't put my finger on it," says Martin Bell. But top skiers tend to be young, and often come from small mountain villages. So they don't tend to be wise in the ways of the world. Also, they come from diverse cultures and speak different languages, which makes it difficult for them to band together."

The normal process of revolution against sporting authorities involves the creation of a rival, more commercially oriented circuit. There were rumours that this might happen in the mid-Eighties; but, says Bell, "the racers were sort of bought off by the FIS, when it introduced personal headband sponsorship. And anyway, the competitive skiing season is too short to support two circuits: the old, and a new, breakaway rival. It lasts only from the and of November to the end of March, so there just aren't enough weekends available. And during peak holiday times, the resents aren't too keen to host events".

If some old sporting traditions live on, however, others fade away. You still won't see big-money sponsors' logos on Ski Sunday, but neither will you hear the voice of the commentator David Vine. After 19 years on the programme, he has retired. It won't be the same without him chanting his mantra about the tuck position.

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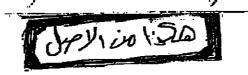
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Max Wooldridge revisits the Czechs' second city

ou know that Skoda in English means 'a pity'?" my translator friend Romana inquired over a dinner of smazeny syr (fried cheese in bread-

It was news to me, but it made sense of an incident I had seen earlier while I was walking to Liberty Square (Namesti Svobody), Brno's main square. A delivery van had driven into the back of a Skoda, knocking the car's bumper off. The driver got out, shrugged his shoulders and simply placed the fender in his boot, accepting the damage as inevitable. No insurance details were exchanged; both drivers just shook hands and departed.

If Prague is the Czech Republic's favourite child, Brno (pronounced brr-no, like a reaction to a chilly wind - not Bruno as in boxer Frank) is its silent cousin. The city's 650th anniversary in 1993 went largely unnoticed.

Despite the its location in the centre of Europe (half way between Budapest and Prague, and close to both Bratislava and Vienna), little is known about the Czech Republic's second city other than that it is the birthplace of the novelist Milan Kundera and the Bren gun. The Second World War machine gun was first manufactured in Brno, before production moved to Enfield.

When it comes to architecture, Brno beats Prague hands down, with its weird and wonderful "House of the Four Ninnies" (U Ctyr Mamlasu), in the triangular Liberty Square, built at the turn of the century by a rich Jewish industrialist. The "Ninnies" are four massive stone figures with agonised expressions who support the building on their shoulders.

I found more pained looks on the faces of Capuchin monks, whose remains are displayed in the crypt of Brno's 17th-century monastery, a real theatre of the macabre, nearby in Namesti Kapucinske. They are joined by the bodies of local burghers and noblemen, preserved by an ingenious ventilation system.

One of the monks was buried alive: covered lying in a different position to when he was laid to rest. (And look out for chandeliers made of human bones.)

The first time that I visited Brno was in November 1989, during the demon-strations that led to the Velvet Revolution. I joined thousands of students in Liberty Square; we anxiously stuffed newspapers down our backs in case the police beat us. It was then that I met Petr, a local English teacher. Now, he runs his own English language school and promotes classical music concerts for touring foreign orchestras. When we met again in a hotel lobby he was busy explaining to an American producer why his concert posters had been delayed: "The printers are not capitalist yet. They need two weeks."

Getting there There are no direct flights between the UK and Brno. The closest international gateway is Prague, which has daily services from Heathrow on British Airways (0345) 222111), British Midland (0345 554554), or CSA Czech Airlines (0171-255 1898) - which also operates from Stansted, In descending order, the lowest return fares for each airline (including tax)

are as follows, applicable for passengers travelling in January: British Airways' lowest World Offer fare of £199.90 must be booked by 18 December.

British Midland charges £180.90 for a ticket, which must be booked at least a day before travelling.

CSA charges the same amount for travellers departing from Heathrow, but flights from Stansted come out. £15 cheaper, at £165.90. A bus from Victoria coach station

in London to Florenc bus station in Prague costs £95 return (including free soft drinks) and takes about 20 hours, through Kingscourt Express (0181-673 7500).

From Prague, a connecting bus or train to Brno takes around three hours and costs about £10 each

Staying there

Rates quoted for the following hotels are for a night in a double room, including breakfast. Hotel Avion, Ceska 20 (00 42 5 42 21 50 16): £37 or £28 - the lower price is for rooms with a shower but no toilet. Hotel Pegas, Jakubska 4 (00 42 5 42 21 01 04): £40. Hotel Slovan, Lidicka 23 (00 42 5 41 32 12 07): £36.

Further information Contact the Czech Centre, 95 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5RA (0171-291 9924). Open 9.30am-5pm from Monday to Friday. Nearest The tourist office in Brno is located at Behousika 3, but its telephone number (00 42 5 42 21 10 89, extension 90) never seems to get an

Later, we dined at the U Pinkasu beer hall off Cesky, Brno's main shopping street. There were no tables free so we sat amongst cheerful Czechs, sipping glasses of golden beer and feasting on fattening food such as svickova (beef in cream sauce) and knedliky (dumplings). On the next table, two middle-aged women with clashing hair tints refused to let two men share their table with them. I asked Petr what was going on. "They didn't like the way the men asked if they could sit down," he explained.

Was Brno, I wondered, a city of unpleasantly brusque people? I was reassured to some extent when I learnt that the twisted spire above the Gothic portal of the 13th-century Old Town Hall (Stare Radnice) was not the result of vandalism by Lada louts. More like revenge wreaked by the 16th-century sculptor Anton Pilgram: when the coun-cil didn't pay him as much as he'd hoped, he instructed his stone-cutters to bend the tallest spire. It remains twisted to this day, aptly located above the statue of justice.

Churches, it seems, are a focal point for local - and lasting - expression. At the top of St James Church in Jakubske Namesti is "Nehanba" (the shameless one), a manikin who exposes his bottom from the church tower's southern window. The manikin is believed to have been built as an eloquent message to a rival church south of the city.

Perhaps its desired target was the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on Petrov Hill, with imposing twin spires reminiscent of the Thunderbirds rocket. For the last 350 years, its bells have rung at midday an hour early. In 1645, a crafty bishop rang the cathedral bells for noon at 11am, after a Swedish cheeral besieging the city declared that he would leave if his troops hadn't captured the place by midday.

Other imagery abounds. Brno's best known attraction is the Brno Dragon, which hangs in the entrance of the town hall. But the legendary dragon, reputedly killed by a gallant knight after it had ter-rorised the city, is more likely to be a stuffed Amazonian alligator brought home by a nobleman. Also of the stuff of legend is the Broo Wheel, said to have been made in 1636 by a cocksure carpenter 40km away in Lednice, southern Moravia. He chopped a tree down, made a wheel and rolled it to Brno all in one day. What a guy - but quite what he was trying to prove, no one knows.

The place seemed full of impressive people. Over a lunch of bramborak labuznik (potato pancakes) in another at next to two elderly Czech ladies. Blame my circumspect English upbringing, but I rather expected them to drink something like a slivovice (plum brandy) each. They were having none of it, preferring pints of dark beer.

Later, I watched two brewery workers spend half an hour delivering more than a hundred beer barrels. Perhaps the brewery had deregulated their quality control department: certainly the workers spent the next hour drinking large quantities before leaving. Little wonder, then, that one of the first entries in my Czech phrasebook was a translation for "he's absolutely smashed".

Another beerhali - the Two Rams (U Dvou Kozlu), located on the site of the former Communist party's regional headquarters, was so smoky that I almost

All you had to do was to

collect a few first-class stamps

O'Brien's birthday impending

on 25 October, the timing was

ideal. "Happy birthday and

satisfaction of the prescient,

looked forward to another

satisfied contributor.

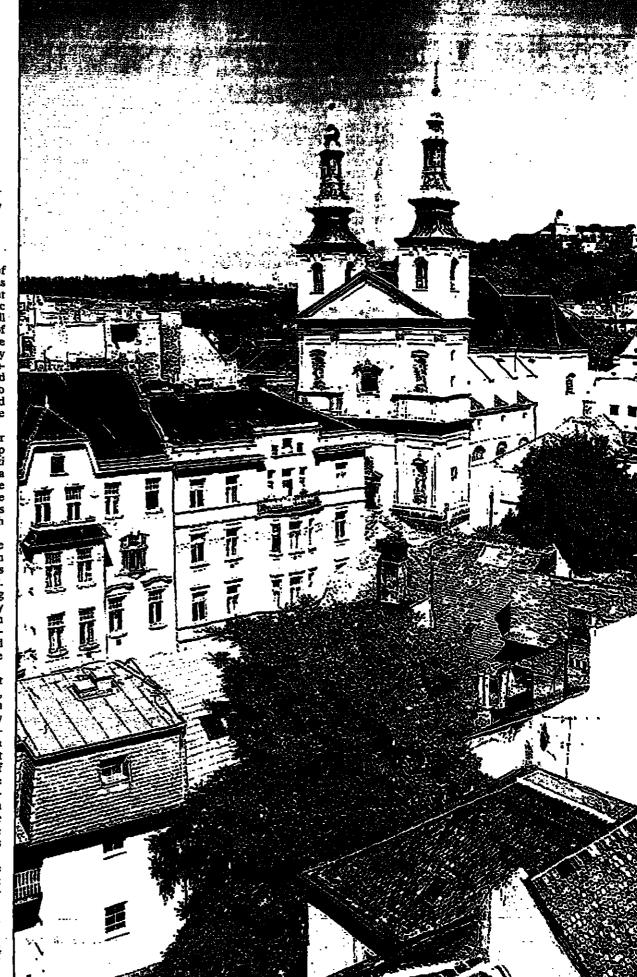
many happy returns," we

wrote, and with the self-

and send a voucher to an address in Cambridge. You

could have a personalised

message added. With Ms



When it comes to architecture, Brno beats Prague hands down

This is hardly surprising, when you realise that the Czechs have a popular, chainsmoking president and a brand of cigarettes called Start,

Seven years ago young Czechs, with or without cigarettes in hand, had approached me in the streets and offered to change money. Now they simply

needed a thermal imager to see anything. wanted my opinion. Pavel, a student I met while I was waiting for a bus to Bratislava, was bursting with questions. Was it all right to be disillusioned with democracy so soon, he wanted to know. What did I think of the split with Slovakia? Did the Czech Republic lack con-

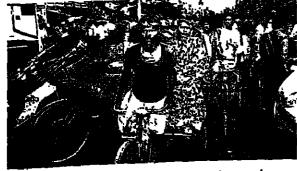
fidence as a nation? Communism here may be pretty much

dead, but another of Brno's past landlords survives - at least in a gastronomic incarnation. Bloated like a Habsburg lip. parek (hot sausages) sell from roadside stalls all over the city. The last time I stopped to buy one, it was served on a piece of cardboard with a dollop of mustard. Market forces mean that they now arrive on polystyrene plates.



something to declare

Trouble spots



The following places are at risk from bombings.

India: The Travel Advice Unit of the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503) advises against all travel to Jammu and Kashmir. There have been recent bomb explosions in public places in Delhi (above) and on public transport in neighbouring areas. Reuter reports that 12 train passengers were killed and 37 injured when a homb exploded on a train in Ambala. Police think it may be part of an escalation of violence before state assembly elections in Punjab, due by next February.

Corsica: a bomb damaged a building owned by the regional authority for northern Corsica last week but caused no injuries. The device exploded outside the northern capital

Bastia, blowing out the windows of the building. It is the latest in a series of bombings, which have occurred mostly at night. by separatists seeking more autonomy from France for Corsica. Casualties are rare.

Ethiopia: A bomb in the Wabe Shabelle Hotel, Addis Ababa, in August killed one person and injured 11, including a European visitor. There have been explosions in other Ethiopian hotels. The Foreign Office advises vigilance at all times".

Central African Republic: Rebel soldiers in the capital, Bangui, have fired mortar bombs near the French embassy at the Sofitel hotel, where some loyalist government forces are based - Reuter.

Philippa Czemin

A likely story

The cake will be delivered within 14 days" - Royal Mail promotion.

We like to keep our contributors sweet, especially those of the calibre of Harriet O'Brien (whose story on Cornwall appears on page nine). We also need to watch the budget. So the Royal Mail Send-a-Cake promotion, back in October, presented an ideal solution.

Bargain of the week

After Christmas and New Year, there is always a slump in demand for leisure air travel. In anticipation, Air UK (0345 666777) has brought out a range of cheap fares, both one-way and return, for travel from 6 January to 15 March. The best deals are between London and

Aberdeen or Inverness (£40 one way, £75 return, including (ax) and from Stansted to Florence and back (£54 single, £108.60 return). You must book 14 days in advance, but note that the usual "Saturday night stay" rule does not apply - making these handy for business travellers, too.

*Next Saturday in The Long Weekend

Minter tales: the poet Brian Patten paints a sicture of midwinter Kraków in a thousand.

Plus: sing-your-wayaround-the-world - how many naff travelrelated Christmas tunes can you identify?

The cake arrived on Monday of this week, over six weeks late. If the Royal Mail had shown the nous to change the message to "Merry Christmas" we could have forgiven the organisation.

Except for one thing.

Look at the width of this column, then imagine a square cake of that dimension. That is the exact size of the bite-sized confection. Ms O'Brien was amused, but not nourished.

Visitors' book

Posada Mirador, Chihuahua-Pacifico Railway, Mexico.

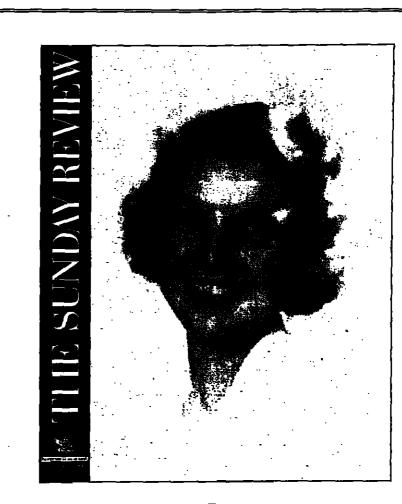
Awsome [sic]. Thrilling. Thanks so v much. Keith Thomson and Martha Krupp, Tucson, Arizona.

Wonderful. Wonderful. Wonderful place. Mary and Earl Morris, Portland, Oregon.

Vista Magnifico. Nydia and John Gletne, Tahoe City, Ca.

Too romantic for someone so alone. Alona Guerra, San Antonio, Texas.

Es simplemente un lugar maravilloso. Betty Aguilar, Arocha, Nueva Rosita,



E. suddenly appeared, wearing an ugly smile. He suggested they settle this matter by playing Russian roulette...' In what she expects to be her last major piece of published writing, Martha Gellhorn probes the mysteries of memory, and recaptures astonishing moments from her astonishing life

Plus: David Sylvester on the origins of Cubism; Andy Beckett on a thoroughly modern drifter, and the very best of the year's arts

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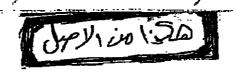
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Norton Priory: very much a living museum

Photograph: The Norton Priory Museum Trust

'It would be scary at night'

Caroline Millar and her family saw how the monks lived at Norton Priory

incongruous, surrounded by the shaven lawns and hi-tech structures of a Business Park. Your heart starts to sink. It doesn't recover much as you approach a low, modern building in tastefully landscaped surroundings.

Then you step into another world. You stones for a long-gone priory. There's a black canon crouched over his missal. You hear monks chanting. Yes, this is a museum. But it's one that brings you very close to the people who lived and died on the land around you - the monks who were here for four hundred years, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The Brooke family, who demolished the priory and built two fine houses, have

now also gone. Your footsteps echo as you walk through the Undercroft - part of the old priory that was used as a cellar. And then outside to the ruins - the Cloister Walk, the chapter house and the graves in the church.

You hear the bell tolling as you walk past the kitchens, to the herb garden and woodland beyond. There is an elegant drain from the monks' latrine. Georgian summer house and, hidden in

he sign for Norton Priory looks the woods, a Victorian cottage where the imagine that the black canons still pace did make a noise it would echo. There's from the land, and later went back to the ladies and gentlemen used to take tea. Crossing the bridge over the dual

carriageway to the other part of the estate, the 20th century intrudes. But then you enter a swathe of ancient woodland, oaks, elder, and horsechestnut. The walled garden is closed for see a medieval stonemason hewing the winter, so the day ends in the old pear red berries. In the clearings you come orchard, with the trees outlined against a darkening sky.

The visitors

Caroline Millar, a freelance writer, went to Norton Priory Museum with her husband, Malcolm, a university lecturer, their son, Thomas, aged seven, and daughter, Claire, aged three.

Caroline: The museum presents the life of the priory very clearly, and Thomas was fascinated. He especially loved the models of the priory as it was being built, and he was still young enough to ask the question, "What happened when they went to the loo?" We satisfied our curiosity later by tracing the path of the

they put their food.

On a misty afternoon, it's easy to come out of the bits in the wall. If they

climbed over the ruins. We had to watch carefully, as there are a couple of steep drops.

We saw rabbits, squirrels and birds in the woods. Prepare for a cold winter the holly was absolutely splattered with across work by living artists, a statue or maybe an abstract sculpture. Some of them reminded me of rusty old cars, but then I'm totally unartistic. I did like Coventina, the Celtic goddess of streams and wells, who crouched at the head of

Thomas: I didn't like walking all day because it made my legs hurt. I liked the model of the church being built. There's scaffolding and ladders and the little people can climb up. There's stone-masons, and even a little bit of cement. I liked learning about the monks in the church and how they lived, and where

The Undercroft would be a bit scary at night - you might think ghosts would

the cloisters. Not easily spooked, Claire a very old chair in the Undercroft, and very old wood in the fireplace. In one of the graves there is a daddy, and then there were three babies. I think that's

> The bell was good. At first I was scared of the noise but I just swung it very hard and it went whack!

> Claire: The skeleton looks a bit scary to me. It's happy because I can see its mouth laughing. He s got no clothes on. He was once a people and then the people died.

> I liked the bricks to play with because like to climb on them. The summerhouse looks nice. I can play with the leaves in it, sweeping the leaves up with a brush. Mummy and Daddy say "come. on", and I stay because I like to.

Malcoim: A still winter day was a good time to come - it's quiet and very atmospheric here. You see the way life has ebbed and flowed in this place.

I think the sculptures are to show the continuity between the land and manmade objects. The priory stones came ities. Contact the museum for details.

land. It's an interlinking of nature and man, death and rebirth.

Norton Priory, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire (01928 569895) Location: From M56 take Junction 11 for Warrington and follow signs for Norton Priory. From other directions follow "all other Runcorn traffic" and then "Norton Priory" signs. By public transport, go by train to Runcorn then take bus 14 to where the Busway crosses the Bridgwater Expressway. It is then a half-mile walk.

Winter opening: 12 noon to 4pm daily. Walled Garden closed. Entrance: adults, £2.60; concessions, £1.40; under-fives, free; family day-ticket for two adults and three children, £6.95. Access: Good for wheelchairs and buggies. Food and drink: Café in the museum a few home-made cakes, but mainly wrapped biscuits, sweets and crisps.

Coffee, tea and soup available. Toilets: In the museum. Disabled toilet and baby-change room. Clean and warm. Education: Extensive educational activ-

Are we nearly there?

A weekly round-up of events for children

Christmas themed events are coming thick and fast. It may seem like overlill, but many venues are pulling out the stops to put on some really special activities. (Then again, by the end of all this you may never be able to look a mince pie in the eye again.)

Christmas at the Zoo London Zoo, Regent's Park Road, London (0171-449 6235) every weekend

to 22 December. Special opening on Monday 23 December. Pre-book a halfhour slot between 10.30 and 3.30pm. Price includes access to the rest of the zoo. Adults, £11; children, £9. At the children's zoo kids can meet Melchior the wise man (and the resident camels), introduce themselves to Santa's reserve reindeer, follow the shepherd with his sheep, or visit Isaac the lankeeper with his stable of donkeys and ponies. Santa will be in his grotto doling out gifts and there will be mince pies, mulled wine and special hot drinks for children.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Wooloton Hall Natural History Museum, Wooloton Park, Nottingham NG8 2AE (0115 928 1333). 19-21 December, 10am-11.30 am and 1pm-2.30pm. Entrance to museum: adults, £1.50 for adults; children, 75p; under-fives, free) This annual celebration of Christmas is specifically for the under-fives. Activities include singing, storytelling and tree decorating. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas family fun day Memorial Hall, Northwich, Vale Royal, Cheshire, 11am-3pm today (01606) 41430). Free. Father Christmas will be stopping off on his busy schedule to hand out chocolate coins and buttons at this festive open day thrown by the local council. Children's craft activities: making cards and crackers, decorating T-shirts and prettifying logs to decorate the Christmas table. School orchestras will play all day and the mayor will make a grand draw for charity. The council's cherry-picker will be on hand to give children a bird's-eye view of Northwich.

Winter Wonderland

Marwell Zoological Park, Winchester, Hampshire (01962-777407). Last spaces for Winter Wonderland available 19, 20 December. Wild Lights 16, 17 Dec. Adults, £ 7.50; children, £7.50; under-twos, £5.50. Pre-booking essential.

Take children to a sparkling walk-through display of traditional and fantasy tableaux at Marwell Zoo, before perusing gift stalls, receiving a gift from Santa and greeting a few of his reindeer. Alternatively, take them along for an exciting evening visit to Wild Lights, to see illuminations in the park.

A Tudor Christmas

Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, near Banbury, Oxfordshire (01295-760205) today and tomorrow 10.30am-1pm and 2-4.30pm. Adults, £4; children. £2. Visitors to Sulgrave Manor (home of George Washington's ancestors) will be met by the lord of the manor and his household in Tudor costume. The $\overline{\text{Great}}$ Hall will be decked with seasonal greenery and log fires will be burning. After a guided tour of the manor guests can scoff wassail and winter sweetmeats and learn about the customs and traditions of Christmas.

Christmas capers Clive House Museum, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (01743-354 811) today, 10am-

3.30pm, £2. Get punch-drunk at Clive House Museum where families will be greeted by costumed attendants, and served coffee, mince pies and punch. Children can make their own cards and decorations, and the older ones may like to try their hand at decorating the Christmas cake.

Liese Spencer

One parent, will travel... possibly

Deborah Jackson assesses the value of single-parent offers from the travel industry

uaranteed free child holidays!" you fail to travel in the traditional family group of two parents and a modest num-

her of children. Single parents are the ones who probably most need the rest - and the discount, but their needs are usually ignored. Travel operators make few concessions and may even insist that the oldest child pays the full adult rate. So we made some calls on behalf of a single mother with two children, aged six and eight, seeking a high-season holiday abroad or in the UK

Package holidays abroad The lone parent does not stand a chance. As the Thomson brochure states, "A free child place is only available for a child sharing a room with two full-fare paying adults, and all the other operators we

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we'd be better off paying for the oldest
child as an adult and taking whatever conwere feeble. Over and over, we were told cessions we could for the youngest.

Airtours (01706 260000): Single parents have to pay two adult fares whatever concessions they receive, said the operator. Sunworld (0113 255 5222): The singleparent family saver advertised in the brochure looked promising: "We offer holi-days where a special reduction applies to a child sharing a room with only one adult." But, the operator explained, this offer was redundant for a mother of two. "This only applies to one adult, one child. If you have two children, one pays the adult price." Thomson (0990 673310): Thomson does not offer any concessions to single parents: "One of your children would have to go as an adult," I was told. I was referred to the Skylours brochure for

parent with two children, or the savings selected hotels and apartments in 13 different resorts including Majorca, Tenerife, Turkey, and Halkidiki, Greece. Both first and second child prices apply to children travelling with just one adult. Unfortunately, neither child counts towards under-occupancy charges on this offer, so supplements could be steep. First Choice (One Parent Family Hotline 0161 745 4600): The hotline is new for this year. However, offers apply to a small handful of hotels and apartments, "mostly in Majorca", and places were almost all

allocated at the time of calling. "Sometimes it's cheaper to pay two adult fares and take advantage of the free child offer," said the operator. A one-parent family staying at, for instance, the Rosa del Mar apartments in Palma Nova would also be liable for under-occupancy charges of £12 a night in high season, whichever deal they travelled on. Cosmos (0161 480 5799): A healthy range

rather than two. But if one adult is sharing a room with three children, the third child pays the adult price. Virgin Holidays (01293 617181): Excellent

news in the Florida/Caribbean brochure for lone parents with up to three children. "Single Parent Virgins" are invited to enjoy discounts on selected hotels in Orlando, Miami and St Petersburg.

Camping abroad

These holidays are tailor-made for families of unusual shapes and sizes. Under-18s travel free, and one parent can usually travel with four children without paying punitive supplements or extra adult fees.

Eurocamp (01565 626262): One-adult parties are offered £65 off the base holiday price. Operators are extremely helpful in working out the cheapest holiday prices and best deals on crossings. Keycamp (0181 395 4400): There's a £60

checked make the same disclaimer. Also, checked make the same disclaimer. Also, watch out for under-occupancy charges witch out for under-occupancy charges witch out for under-occupancy charges if your room or apartment is meant to take four.

Most of the one-parent family offers we investigated turned out to be of little investigated turned out to be of little value. Either they did not apply to a single-parent offers, a 250 discount for one-parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia. Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissounts on other children (or teenagers) qualify for dissounts when travelling with one parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia. Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissount on other dates). To qualify, book by 31 January. French Country Camping (01565 counts when travelling with one parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia. Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissount for one-parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia. Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissount for one-parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia. Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissount for one-parent families on single-parent deals in botels and all-inclusive resorts from Majorca to Malta and the Gambia Look out for offers under the "Extra Value" section. Two children (or teenagers) qualify for dissount for one-parent families on single-parent families on single-parent families on single-parent f

groups, depending on season.

Haven Europe (01705 466111): Haven's "Single Saver" offers parties headed by one adult a reduction of £8 a night between 19 July and 1 August, and £4 a night on other dates. This applies to holidays from five to 14 nights long.

Award-winning UK hotels

A very mixed bunch of prices and attitudes from establishments who have won awards for catering for families.

The Knoll House, Studland, Dorset (01929 450450): A devilishly difficult system of adding up the children's ages and turning them into a percentage left us with a 100 per cent bill for the eight-year-old and a 60 per cent reduction for the six-year-old. "So the oldest child pays an adult fee?" I asked. "Well, yes, but it's not as simple as that." I wish it were.

The Saunton Sands Hotel, Braunton, Devon (01271 890212): One parent sharing with children in a triple-bedded room will not be penalised. "One child should pay an adult fee, but we would normally

Canvas (01383 644000): A reduction of waive that." Children each receive their between £30 and £85 for single-parent normal reduction from the adult tariff (40 per cent for a six- and an eight-year-old). Crieff Hydro, Pertbshire (01764 655555): There are no double occupancy supplements for single parents, who qualify for the usual child discounts, according to age. Trevelgue Hotel, Porth, Cornwall (01637 872864): "We aim to give a great deal," said owner Nicholas Malcolm. "No single supplements, all discounts - even the youngest child free, when applicable." One-parent treats include complimentary childcare tickets; free use of gym, squash and tennis facilities, introductions to other guests for sports and entertainment; childcare at dinner time and priority booking on children's clubs. Top marks.

> The National Council for One Parent Families (0171-267 1361) produces a free information brochure. There's also a Guide to Holidays for One Parent Families' from the Holiday Care Service (01293 774535), One Parent Family Holidays (01776 889500) is a specialist tour operator offering hotel and camping holidays, mainly abroad. Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents (01302 728791) arranges discounted holidays and day trips.



Duff Hart-Davis Country lanes: the soul of England

t is easy to mock the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Its aim is admirable: to save what is left of our countryside from being covered by concrete, bricks and asphalt. Yet its role is all too often negative - it forever tries to stop huilding on green sites, block planning permission, prevent construction of new highways.

Now, though, it has come up with a creative campaign to save country lanes - "the lost lanes of England". Anyone who lives on a lane, or has cause to use one regularly, will give this initiative a hearry welcome.

The CPRE's warning extends to the whole country: cars and lorries have already made many lanes intolerable for walkers or riders, it says, and the unbridled increase in traffic threatens "a part of ourselves so deep that it makes us what we are ... not just the heart, but the soul of England".

I second that. Here in Gloucestershire the lanes that wind up and down the steep valleys of the Cotswold escarpment are an essential feature of the landscape, and they appal, astonish or delight visitors. One German friend could scarcely believe his eyes. "Das kann nicht sein." he kept muttering incredulously as he nursed his Mercedes round hairpin bends between flowercovered banks as high and steep as the roofs of houses rising from close in on either side of the seven-foot fairway. In Germany, he said, all this would be bulldozed out to a sensible width. To which I replied, "Thank God. this isn't Germany.

The transport lobby's prescription is to turn lanes into highways by straightening bends, removing hedges and plastering the landscape with signs. The CPRE, in contrast, is pushing for lower speed limits, action to stop heavy lorries using small roads as rat-runs, and "traffic calming devices, making use of traditional features of lanes like hedgerows and walls".

Another CPRE proposal is for improved public transport in rural areas, to cut down car journeys. Though excellent in theory, this plan is extremely hard to make effective - as was brought home to us when we had American cousins staying.

They did not want to drive, so we investigated the possibilities of moving around our area by bus or train. The Gloucestershire Public Transport county map shows bus routes snaking in all directions, and there is also the railway, with a branch line, reopened after a splendid local campaign, running straight into the heart of Gloucester.

But could we shift our cousins by public transport from base to the arboretum at Westonbirt, eight miles across country? First they would have had to walk a mile into the village. There a bus could have taken them by a roundabout route to Tetbury. A change there would have brought them to the start of the drive leading to the arboretum - with a long walk to the entrance. The journey there and back would have taken most of the day. So, of course, we took them by car.

There lies the rub. We who live in the sticks depend on cars, and have perforce to use the lanes. But we use them as little and as carefully as possible, and we want others to do the same.

Once, in a camp some way south of Kathmandu, I asked King Birendra of Nepal whether he saw the day when every village in his vertiginous land would be connected to a road. His answer was no: hundreds of hamlets in the Himalayas are so high and remote that no road will ever reach them.

It is up to us to ensure that parts, at least, of our precious English landscape remain comparably isolated.



Literary gardening delights

Christmas books for the botanically bewitched. By Anna Pavord

ichael Pollan writes so well that, as Fred Allen used to say, he makes you feel like putting Y your quill back in your goose. He is the American author of Second Nature, recently published in the UK as one of Bloomsbury's first in a new series of Gardening Classic

Mr Polian bought a run-down old dairy farm in Connecticut, where he started to plant his first garden. The idea was to garden without upsetting the principles laid down by his hero, the 19thcentury naturalist Henry Thoreau. "Do not impose your will upon the wilderness, the woodchuck or the weeds," said Thoreau, from his shanty in the woods near Walden Pond.

As any experienced gardener could have told him. Mr Pollan was doorned to failure from the start. He may have understood about sharing the bounty of the garden, but the woodchucks sure as

hell didn't.

His book describes how he gradually developed a more harmonious relationship with nature. In a post-Thoreau world, he sees his garden as the ideal interface between man and the natural world. Between the two diametrically opposed approaches to the land - that is, either raping it, or sealing it off and labelling it a nature reserve – sits his garden, the perfect amalgam. Gardeners learn to use the land without abusing it, and nature and culture are reconciled.

Heaaa-wwyy, you may think. But it's not. Along the way are endlessly entertaining digressions into compost and its moral imperative, sex and class conflict in the garden, pompous catalogues, the war against weeds. Perhaps the closest thing published by an English writer is Russell Page's Education of a Gardener. But Pollan's book is better. And bigger, in terms of what it

Bloomsbury has published six Gardening Classics so far, all hardbacks, but at paperback prices (£10.99). One of their latest is William Robinson's The English Flower Garden, which first came out in 1883. Then, it was one of the most widely read and influential gardening books around. It is just as relevant today, especially in view of the new craze for liberating herbaceous plants from the swathes instead.

The big book of the year from is Dorling Kindersley's new clopaedia of Garden Plan less. I was never a huge fan of the first, kitchen garden: orderly, productive, sengreen-jacketed Encyclopaedia of Plants suous with the smell of peaches, and glisand Flowers. I didn't like the way the tening in the light reflected from rich, plants were arranged in colours rather shiny leaves of ruby chard. Susan Campthan families, and there were too many bell, whose earlier book, Cottesbrooke, celebrates the masterly way in which plants that had been omitted altogether. was an account of a year spent in one particular kitchen garden, has now promaximum effect: strawberries at Christseller list since it was published seven vears ago.

The new, black-jacketed encyclopaedia includes details of more than 15,000 plants (the earlier edition had about 8,000), all alphabetically arranged. It is staggeringly comprehensive, easy to use, and full of photographs which have been meticulously checked to ensure that the printed colour on each one matches exactly with the plant that is described alongside it.

As if that were not enough, the book also tells you where the plants originally came from. And knowing where a plant grows in the wild, he it the Himalayas,

should be treated in a garden. As a visitor of grades, there is noth-for ing which makes me happier than a good den in general. Called Charleston Kedding (Ebury Press, £30), it sounds suitably Angio-Saxon, but it isn't a real place at all. It's a neat anagram of "old

kitchen gardens".

The device gives Mrs Campbell the freedom to gloss over the history of the kitchen garden and to quote from other. much earlier writers. The kitchen garden was where gardening skills were honed to the highest level. It was the basic training ground for young gardeners, steadily progressing from garden boy to journeyman, to foreman to head gardener, the pinnacle of the profession.

Indeed, John Claudius Loudon's Morocco, China or Siberia, gives a gar-dener the best possible clue as to how his foot on the next rung of the ladder

control. leis on rept, botanising and collecting insects and minerals, and visiting every distinguished garden on his

Inevitably, the book is tinged with nostalgia, but never with melancholy. It that book has scarcely been off the best- duced a superb study of the kitchen gar- mas, peaches all the year round. And Mrs Campbell's rigorous research has thrown up many quixotic delights. I've fallen head over heels for Mr Lawson of Tirydail, near Llandeilo, who built himself a cowhouse vinery in 1852 so that the cows' breath would provide the necessary heating. "And very pretty the cows look too with a row of chrysanthemums on the wall in front of them," said a contemporary correspondent.

Euphorbias, by Roger Turner (Batsford, £25), is one of a series of serious monographs published by the Hardy Plant Society. It is short on pictures and long on words such as cyathium, caruncle, axillary and tubercles. But it doesn't put me off. even though I haven't the faintest idea what they mean. It's quite soothing to say

Il feel an irrepressible and chivyied to give of their best has not urge to look them up in a botanical dictionary, but for the moment I'm content to leave them be and concentrate on what is familiar in the book.

one of the few families of which you can garden. say, "No garden should be without ..." As identification, cultivation and propagation - but the lion's share of the book is taken up with descriptions of all the hardy euphorbias known to gardeners. That's an include the ancillary cultivars bred from them. If you like euphorbias, you need this book.

Ursula Buchan is a professional gardener, trained at Wisley and Kew, so you that is given in her sumptuously illustrated book Gardening for Pleasure (Conran Octopus, £20). The text is a reworking and updating of one of Ms Buchan's earliest books, The Pleasures of Gardening, and her delight in the

to yourself. Like a processes by which plants can be coaxed

dimmed in the interval. Introductory chapters on mulches, feeding, basic gardening techniques and tools are followed by sound words on ways of

Finally, for the jaded gardener who has strange, greeny-yellow flowers are a becadent Gardener (Dedalus, £3.99), by bonus. There are useful chapters here on Mediar Lucan and Durian Grey. A photograph of the authors shows them heavily disguised as James Joyce and Augustus John, in the library at Mountcullen, Mrs Conchita Gordon's astonishing 90 species, if you don't finely proportioned place (Georgian, of

Lucan and Grey have been called in by Mrs Gordon to redesign the Mountcullen acres. The book describes and explains know you can rely on the practical advice cruel, synthetic and fatal garden are only the first of their transformations. As in their previous book, The Decadent Cookbook, the authors reveal that there is a dark side to an activity widely thought to be the preserve only of ladies in sensible shoes.



letting them free in wilder, looser Kitchen garden luxuries: Theodore Netscher's pineapple, painted in 1720. From Susan Campbell's 'Charleston Kedding'

Euphorbias (spurges) are sexy plants; using different kinds of plants in the foliage plants, they are supreme. The seen it, done it and mulched it all, is The

> course) in Co Cork. their ambitious plans for the estate. A

How to hunt with a hawk or join a husky race

Daniel Butler suggests a range of decidedly different gifts: country courses for fresh-air enthusiasts

inding a present for an outdoorsy friend or family member tends to be either ludicrously easy or impossibly difficult. Sometimes, a hip flask, pair of binoculars or hand-warmer hits the spot

final days to Christmas tick by, an activity coincide with school holidays. only exercise and fresh air, but entertainment and education. Fly fishing on one of Britain's premier

rivers offers a therapeutic break. The Arundell Arms Hotel (01566 784666) in Devon runs two- and four-day salmon and trout fishing courses for beginners on its the four-day session, while weekends cost a single room and £144 for a double).

For those wanting to relive the romance of a medieval hunting scene. Leonard and a night in the neighbouring pub). Diana Durman-Walter (01450 860666) run falconry holidays on the Scottish borders. During late summer there's grouse hawking with peregrines (£360 for four or five days), while on a more modest level, £65. If you fancy learning about the finer points of the 4,000-year-old sport, a six-day course on bow to train, fly and hunt a hawk starts at £330. All prices include board and

may prefer the wild article, with a kitewatching holiday in the Cambrian mountains. A guided weekend in mid-Wales with Richard Knight (01597 perfectly, but more often than not, the 811169) starts at £122 (including board rambler, rider or bird-watcher already has and lodging in a local hotel), while a every conceivable piece of state-of-the-art week's introduction to moorland ecology equipment he or she could possibly need. week's introduction to moorland ecology costs up to £422. Special breaks geared For those still racking their brains as the around children are also available to

break could be the answer. There are thousands on offer, with the best providing not show at the end of their break, Will and Lottie O'Leary (01547 528792) run stone-carvng weekends from their home on Offa's Dyke. Starting with an introduction to the tools and techniques of stone-carving, guests design and sculpt their own objects, usually as ornaments for the garden. Past successes have included a full-sized head of 20 miles of water. Prices start at £270 for a Greek god, a life-size sheep, and ornamental house names. The long weekend £150 (accommodation is extra. at £79 for (Friday to Sunday) costs £140 and includes all tools, materials, lunch, tea and coffee, but accommodation is extra (B&B is £17.50

Thrill-seekers may prefer an introduction to husky racing in Northamp-tonshire with John and Penny Evans (01604 686281). Up to six people at a time (clients are advised to recruit their a day's rabbit or pheasant hunting costs own groups) begin the day with breakfast and an introduction to the dogs and equipment. After lunch, guests are allowed to take the reins themselves, dri-ving a team of dogs on trails through a local forest. Weather permitting, a sledge

Less interventionist raptor enthusiasts is used but British winters being what (01491 839766). Participants are expected they are, a wheeled rig is more usual the price: a bargain, is £35 a head. Cheaper holidays are available from the

to donate their labour to construct paths, clear undergrowth, dredge ditches, rework dry-stone walls and lay hedges.

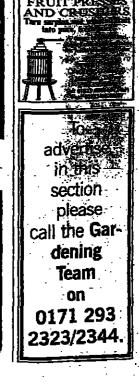
Prices, which cover accommodation

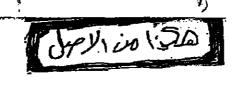
(this can be very basic) and food begin at about £20 for a weekend and £32 for a week - a bargain when you consider the self-satisfied glow of altrusm you take home at the end. home at the end.





Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6BR





all consuming

Shopping: the end of silver hallmarking.....16 The ultimate guide to buying drink in Calais.....18

How fir can you go?

Christmas trees are seriously fashionable, says Jane Furnival

irs are in fashion. We're in the grip of the greatest nos-talgia for Christmas trees since Christmas was invented. Bejewelled branches are everywhere. Liberty's of London has sold out of tassels at £2 each. People will pay florists £80 for a day's lesson in dressing a tree. We like to think of our trees as being intrinsic to the spirit of

Christmas. In fact, no other age bothered so much about them. Homes and interiors magazines for the last century have few. Tree decorations instantly sum up the spirit of the age. To see a society's priorities, look at the top first. The patriotic Victorians had a Union Jack. Now the Empire has gone, we turn to angels and fairies.

The Americans always stuck to gold, in the form of gilded fruit. In 1897 a former railway worker, James Clements, decked his tree with \$70,000-worth of gold nuggets he had found in the Klondike gold rush.

The first recorded Christmas tree just had paper roses. Scholars blah about pagan nature-revival rites, but in fact it started at an office party in Latvia, around 1510. The lads of the merchants' guild cut down an evergreen, decked it with roses, danced round it in the marketplace, then set fire to it.

After that, fun firs (though not fun fires) caught on, prompting a serious crackdown in 16th-century Alsace: "No one shall have more than one Christmas tree or more than eight shoe lengths." In good EC tradition, this was ignored.

Tree decor was religious. The rose for the Virgin Mary. Coloured wafers for holy communion with Christ. In time, these became gilded fruit, to be eaten on Twelfth Night. The German-cum-British royal family introduced trees here.

In 1848 the Illustrated London News carried a sketch of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in front of a tree decorated, as he recalled it from his childhood, with candles and baskets of sweets. Religious roses and wafers were out of the window for the acquisitive, Protestant Victorians. Their desired effect was Tutankhamun's Tomb meets the Generation Game. All human

life was hung on that tree, from beads to the kitchen sink. Dickens is the usual suspect for creating Christmas, but his only mention of trees, in a magazine article of 1850, describes someone else's, not his own. It had "dolls, real watches, tables, chairs, bedsteads, wardrobes, eight-day clocks wonderfully made in tin... fiddles and drums, guns, swords...

Christmas tree candle accidents were few, but tragic enough o make a few concerned eccentrics consider inventing electric fairy lights. Mazda got there first with elaborate strings of coloured Santa faces, more elaborate, contrived and exciting

In 1900, the Vanderbilts showed off theirs on a 30ft tree, which cost \$200 a day in electricity. Not a success. By 1905 they had returned to the latest "drip proof" candles.

With the 1914 war, we naturally turned our back on German decorations. Their thin, solemn Santa was replaced by a fat smiling American version on paper. The thrifty saved last year's tree, bare of needles, and re-erected it next year, cloaked in white cotton quilted wadding to represent snow,

After the war, silhouettes were slimmer. In the Thirties, the convenience Christmas arrived in the form of a tinsel tree with fold-down branches and built-in glass icicle decorations. But the movies reintroduced glamorous, schmaltzy and

highly commercial Christmases. Tinsel trees matched the glitzy diamonds worn by the stars. In 1938, Christmas was licensed to Disney. Children were desperate to see the new film, Snow White, then take home

the tree baubles to match. And these were baubles shaped like the airships, labelled Graff Zeppelin. The Second World War brought austerity. The Geffrye Museum in London has a tiny tinsel tree to be folded up and

carried to the air raid shelter during the Blitz. You couldn't get silver or gold paint, so glass balls were clear, or painted with stripes. But by the Fifties, brash, acid colours were in. "Space has become a spiritual necessity, remove non-essentials from your room," intoned House and Garden magazine in 1950. Glass balls were quasi-scientific, with conical indentations, like hol-

low tummies. Smaller beads were wired together like molecular models. Nylon threads covered polystyrene scientific balls. The writer SJ Perelman was driven insane by trying out the suggestions of a Mr Lester Gaba in Mademoiselle magazine: "Dip tips of twisted cotton strips into India ink and trim your tree entirely with 'ermine tails'. Pin a fresh mauve orchid to the top."

The dissenting voice of Cool was always around. The higher your class, the less your tree. In 1875, the Aesthetes might hang a few unlit, tiny paper lanterns on some bare twigs in a dark corner of the room. In 1960, House and Garden shows decorator Nancy Lancaster's Bond Street flat at Christmas. You can just see a shred of tinsel cowering in a pot plant.



Tree decorations instantly sum up the spirit of the age

The Sixties proved to be a DIY-fest. When we had finished papering over original features, there were modern trees to make, to match your home-licked paperchains. Try the bachelor tree, made by impaling hundreds of cigarettes on wires stuck in florist's foam in a vase. Or use marshmallows. "Colourstressed titbits" are the things to stick on the tree, as *Ideal Homes* put it. We struggled with eggshells on barley stalks, stars made of drinking straws, and holly painted white and stuck into

lumps of Plasticine. By 1970, the Pill was in, and children and Christmas trees weren't. You might stick a star on top of your giant cactus, paint honesty leaves red, poke some twigs into a milk bottle or drape some tinsel over bendy floor lights drooping over the table.

Suddenly came the Eighties, designer doo-dahs, and trees power-dressed to match the pussycat-bowed blouses of successful women everywhere. "Single colour themes," advised Homes and Gardens, "are more elegant". White iridescent trees gave way to natural-looking artificial ones with gold baubles tied with swathes of ribbon and bows.

Fairy lights caught disco fever, and started repeating on us like the onion soup that we ate in chic little bistros.

Banks did up their reception areas in tartan to emphasise the Scottish values of thrift and reliability, and trees matched. People paid hundreds of pounds for a pair of round-clipped box trees to put beside the coal-effect gas fire.

Then the recession struck. A late-Eighties best-seller was an ironic cardboard cut-out tree, complete with printed-on decorations. Meanwhile the "haves" bought expensive designerdecorated trees that looked quite ordinary until you noticed Vivienne Westwood on the label.

What of the Nineties? Minimalists buy bare-branched trees like witches' broomsticks. Ecologists stick outdoor lights and balls of bird food on the growing tree in the front garden. But when we're honest, most of us prefer a family tree, a marker of real tradition, with faded tinsel, the candles your granny kept in their old clips and children's hand-made decorations. The white-painted holly in Plasticine has bypassed naff and become nostalgia.

The Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA, has a small exhibition of Christmas trees through the ages (recorded information, 0171-739 8543).



good thing

Micromap starter pack, £19.99; additional city centres £9.99.

The Micromap is a cunning pocket-sized viewer through which tiny maps are magnified, and it could mean the end of bulky road atlases and unwieldy maps. The starter pack includes a set of iaminated maps, no larger than credit

cards, and the tiny hand held viewer into which they're slotted. Additional packs of maps include twenty UK regional cities, a comprehensive guide to London, ten European city centres and ten cities in America.

For mail order call 0800-421 252: Micromap is also available from Harrods, Selfridges, Leading Edge, The General Trading Co, and the YHA Shop.

mad thing



Pashion pundits can recreate fresh and zany catwalk looks using "Twirlees". Add an electric-blue stripe à la Chanel in an instant. Club queens and disco divas can also add Twirlees to synchronise their latest look. Available in siren red, pixie green, electric blue, petal pink, canary yellow and this season's favourite: passionate purple.

£6.95 each from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1, and Superdrug branches nationwide.

sure thing

Cocktail shaker, £15 and Martini glasses, £8 for a set of four.

No party is complete without cocktails, and Martinis are just the thing: easy to make and easier still to drink. Get yourself down to M&S and grab one of these sleek chrome shakers and a set of Martini glasses. But remember, this is the drink that 007 got wrong Martinis are never shaken, you should use the shaker to rinse your

ice with Dry Vermouth, pour off the liquid, drop the ice

cubes into the glass and top up with your chosen poison. If you like your Martini gin based try Tanqueray, which comes in a bottle to match this shaker, and if you prefer vodka make sure it's Polish.

Marks and Spencer stores nationwide.

Six of the best... for a well decorated 1996



t's time to make a trip to the loft or garage, or under the stairs, to drag out last year's Christmas decorations. Having to buy new ones can be annoving, but it's comforting to know that everyone has the same problem. Either you force yourself to admit how tarty they're beginning to kok - or you find yourself gazing stubbornly at the

same old baubles, year in, year out. We feature alternatives to the traditional red and green balls - from band-made Russian diamonds to mirrored disco balls. Travel further alield, think globally and you won't need much ancie, trius guarant, and you stop t need interest in chee maybe some fairy lights, but no tiusel.





1 Pink-and-red-patterned papier maché ball, 1 £2.75; orange and yellow papier maché ball, also £2.75; both from Habitat, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and nationwide (0645 334433).

Orange silk thread ball ball with mirror work, £3; fuching pink ball ball with tassle, £3, both from Designers Guild, 267-271 Kings Road,

from Designers Guild, 267-271 Kings Road, London SW 20171-2437 3000).

4 Pink feather ball, £2.99; disco ball, £1.99. Paperchase, 213 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and nationwide (0171-5800 8496). 5 Red embroidered heart, £3.50; purple embroidered ball, £8.50; from Liberty,

STYLIST: HOLLY DAVIES, PHOTOGRAPES: TONY BUCKINGHAM

214-220 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-730 1234). Gold satin thread Russian drop £3.99; white Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, Park Road, and W2 (0171-229 8559).

Gold satin thread Russian drop £3.99; white Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, Loadon W1 (0171-629 1234).



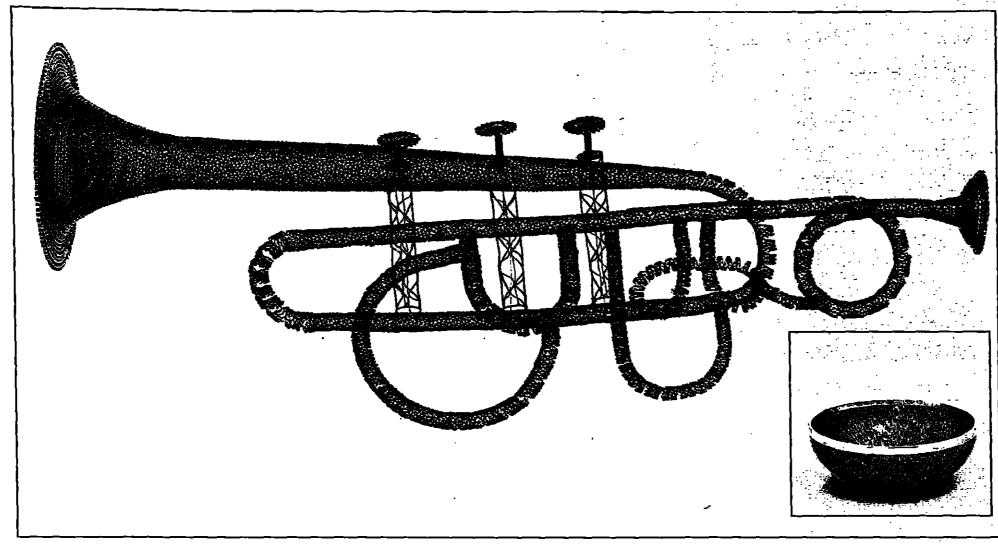
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An end to the silver standard

European laws are rendering the assay offices obsolete. By John Windsor



Main picture: Robert Baines's 'The Entropy of Red'; and inset an Ian Ferguson bowl, both from the V&A's silver galleries

fter nearly 700 years, the UK's hallmarks of most European countries. oldest form of consumer protection - the compulsory hallmarking of silver by British assay offices - is coming to an end. This will be the last Christmas when shoppers can buy contemporary silver giftware - tankards, candlesticks, jewellery - bearing only British hallmarks.

Next spring, following a European Court of Justice ruling, changes to UK hallmarking law will permit European exporters to sell silver bearing neither the official British import hallmark, nor the hallmark of the International Hallmarking Convention, the only other hallmark recognised by the UK.

It will be lawful to sell imported articles described as silver without first submitting them for content testing and independent assay offices - or having them stamped, prior to export, with the it is 92.5 per cent sterling silver. hallmark of the Convention, a group of

even those not in the Convention.

These include Spain, France and the Netherlands - countries which, despite their compulsory and independent halimarking systems, are not members of the Convention because their assaying procedures are not considered to be stringent enough.

As a result, British shoppers will need to accustom themselves to a confusing array of European hallmarks, such as the French eagle. They will no longer be sure to find on contemporary silver currently familiar hallmarks, such as the Convention's weighing scales, symbol of justice, or the British inverted-omega with its accompanying regional hallmark: a horseshoe (for London and Sheffield), a triangle (for Birmingham) hallmarking at one of the UK's four or a cross of St Andrew (Edinburgh), plus the 925 in an oval, indicating that

As for the traditional dog-eared A4-10 European countries (including size hallmark guide pinned to the wall Britain) that enforces rigorous stan- at the jeweller's, it will no longer be of body from the Prime Minister down and What will become compulsory whether the French tolerate variations throughout the EC is recognition of the either side of their eccentric 800 stand-

ard, or whether the Dutch permit hallmarking of mixed metals - none of which is at present legal in this country. To find out would require a collection of scarce and expensive reference books or a trip to Brussels.

The brushing aside of British hallmarking law by Brussels has enraged members of Britain's silver establishment. Lord Broadbridge, a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths Company and an amateur silversmith for 20 years, says: "In an age when consumer protection is to the fore, the Europeans seem to be moving against it. The public will

have no idea what they're buying. No other country in the world but ours has such a complete and ideal system of hallmarking. I don't want to depart from it one jot."

According to Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP and promoter of the existing Hallmarking Act (1973), the EC's threat to

The name that defenders of British EC Commission for an explanation. hallmarking whisper is Houtwipper. It

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Wodehouse novel. In fact, it is Mrs hallmarking lying in the EC locker: a Ludomira Neeltje Barbara Houtwipper, draft directive that would make legal Ludomira Neeltje Barbara Houtwipper, charged under Dutch hallmarking law - similar to ours - with attempting to sell imported silver and gold rings without the required Dutch import marks.

The European Court of Justice found against her, on the grounds that her goods were not hallmarked at all. However, it ruled that goods with hallmarks stamped in a member state by an independent body "equivalent" to that required by Dutch law, which are "intelligible" to consumers, could be legally offered for sale in the Netherlands without additional Dutch hallmarking. The judgment was seen as a windfall by Dutch, French and Spanish silver exporters.

That was in September 1994. There is now a rush, described by the Department of Trade and Industry as "rela-

sounds like the name of a cad in a PG more explosive shot against British not only hallmarks by approved independent bodies such as the British assay offices, but also by silver manufacturers themselves. Independent hallmarking and manufacturer's marks, according to the draft, are "equivalent". Others consider that marking by manufacturers is an invitation to fraud.

It is the threat of being forced by the EC to accept manufacturers' marking - as practised by Europe's two biggest silver manufacturers, Italy and Germany - that has caused most fear and outrage among British silversmiths.

Lord Broadbridge says: "German and Italian manufacturers' marks are a ; disgrace. They are judge and jury in the same court." David Evans, Assay Master of Goldsmiths Hall, adds: "If, as the European Commission deems, manu-British hallmarking will be strongly tively urgent", to bring British law into resisted. He says: "I've spoken to every-line with Houtwipper. Failure to do so marks are 'equivalent', and you can't tell line with Houtwipper. Failure to do so marks are 'equivalent', and you can't tell the difference between them, what's the Consumers might as well hallmark Apart from Houtwipper, there is a silver themselves."

'Our fine silver needs no hallmark'

S ilversmiths in the "non-hallmarking" countries, Italy and Germany, fume about Britain's compulsory hallmarking of imports. A "trade restriction", they say.

But what of contemporary silversmiths in this country? Some of those at the cutting edge of silver design do not give a jot for hallmarking. What is the relevance to silver design, they ask scornfully, of a system devised by Edward I in 1300 to make sure that silver plate turned into coin was of the same sterling standard?

Alistair McCallum a 51-year-old Australian silversmith working in this country, says: "The only good reason for hallmarking a piece of silver is if it has no artistic value, only bullion value".

His bowls, by the gaine or "wood-grain process, so-called because of its flecks of silver mixed with copper, cost about £2,000 each. The mixture of metals disqualifies them from hallmarking as silver. Even the silver rim of one of them was rejected by the London assay office on the grounds that it was attached to mixed metal. So he no longer bothers with halimarking, That means he cannot

silver. But so what? "People who buy my work are aware of its value - and that is not determined just by weighing it". He defends makermarking, legal in Australia. "Frauds

legally call his work

have the book thrown at them by the Trade Practices ractices Commission". McCallum's bowls are not the only contemporary

silverware that seem to be retreating ever office. Who would have guessed that the

red wire trumpet by another Australian, 48-year-old Robert Baines, was silver at all? In fact it is silver wire lacquered red. To hallmark it would be

to knock a hole in it. Has British hallmarking law cramped creativity in design? After all, Britain has no dedicated retailer of соптетротату silverware and the few contemporary. commissioned pieces that crop up at auction get knocked down for as little as a tenth of their price when new.

You can form your

own opinion by visiting the V&A's new silver galleries, opened last month, where you can compare displays of silverware commissioned by Goldsmiths Hall every one hallmarked - with those commissioned by the V&A, which include Baines's unhallmarked trumpet, McCallum's unhalimarked bowls and some delightfully straggly unhallmarked necklaces of oxidised silver that look like

year-old Briton Cynthia Cousens. "The point of this gallery," says its curator, Philippa Glanville, "is to see how conscivative, or otherwise, the Brits are. We don't take

barbed wire, by the 40-

sides on hallmarking The trumpet? "It's conceptual art, isn't it, very much a feature of the Eighties and Nineties." A legitimate use for the silver? "It couldn't have been made out of anything else. Silver is malleable, ductile and has this great softness. fussiness. Can't you just imagine Robert Baines sitting at his

fireside, knitting it?" By contrast, the most striking piece in the Goldsmiths Hall cabinet is 42-year-old Jane Short's vase with enamelled jay's wing decoration. It was bottom before enamelling.

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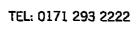
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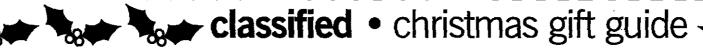
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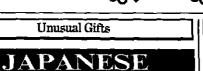
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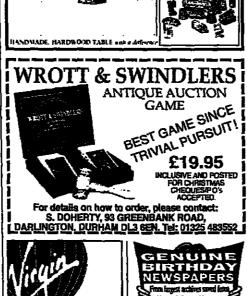
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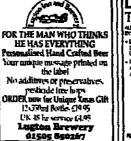
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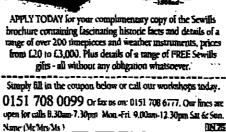












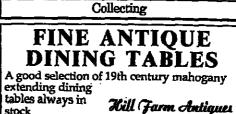
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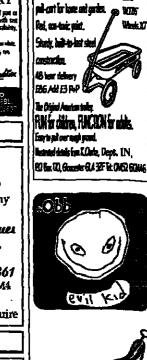
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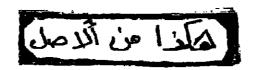
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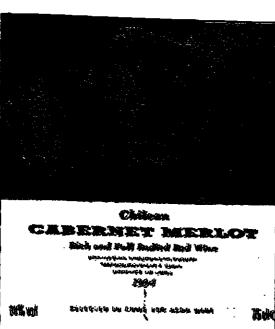




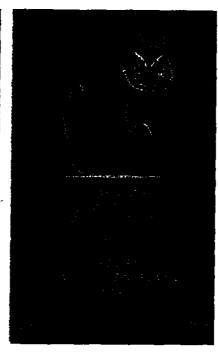


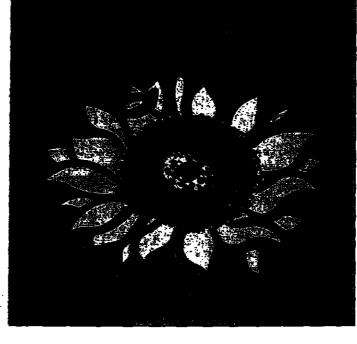
Never mind the bottles...

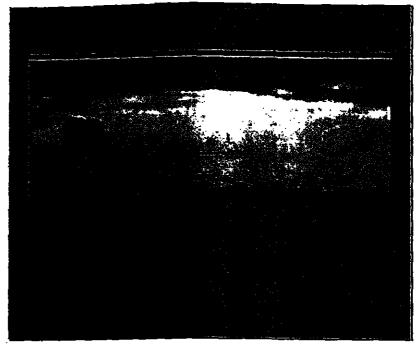
"As we drink more wine the packaging has become more frivolous, writes Sheila Prophet



9







hat do Trio, Poets Corner and Catalyst have in common? And who are Big Frank, Cardinal Zin and the Fat Bas-

Believe it or not, these are all brands of wine. Wine marketing is becoming bolder and brasher by the day, with wacky names, riotous labels and sexy bottles, It seems it's all part of Britain's new,

light-hearted attitude to the grape.

"Ten years ago we didn't understand wine and we stuck to those stolid North European wines that were designed to go with food," says David Howes, Communications Manager of Thresher Wine Shops. "Then the Australians reinvented wine and gave us something fresh, fruity and springy which was great to drink on its own. The packaging changed along with the style of wine. Today we all know much more about wine, it's part of everyday life, and we are demanding a bit of friv-

olity."

If the Aussies started the whole thing, supermarkets such as Tesco and Safeway have also done heir bit by taking the fear out of buying wine. One major advance is what the trade calls "varietorial" labelling, which means labelling wine by the grape rather than the region it comes from. The result is that now we all know our Chardonnays from our

The other big change is the attention given to

labels. The ideal back label contains clear, helpful information about the wine itself and the serving of it, while the front is often a miniature work

Beautiful labels were once confined to very expensive wines, such as Château de Mouton Rothschild, whose makers commissioned artists such as Picasso to illustrate them. These days everyday wines under a fiver are doing the same

Nick Dymoke-Marr, Senior Wine Buyer for the supermarket chain Asda says: "Labels are especially important us to because 80 per cent of our buyers are women and there is a saying that the first glass is with the eye. Wine also has a certain romance, which we want to preserve."

The result is that many bottles now bear names and scenes which evoke their exotic origins. Asda have a range of Greek wines called Temple Ruins and Marble Mountain, and of course there are numerous Australian Wines with unpronounceable names and dreamy water colours depicting the out-

There's no doubt these pictures are pretty, but are they accurate? " Sometimes we do use a bit of artistic licence," confesses David Howes. "When we launched Kings Canyon, a Californian wine, the makers sent over their idea for the label, a pretty

picture with apple trees and little animals playing

around. It wasn't what we wanted at all. Instead we sent back a picture of rugged scenery, with great rocks reaching to the sky, and said This what we want'. OK, it is actually in Arizona, but it looks dramatic on the shelf."

Drama is also the key when it comes to colour. Eye-catching reds, oranges and yellows remain the favourite choices, although the very latest trend is to break a long held colour taboo in the industry and use the colour blue.

We have a South African wine called Lost Horizons, which is in a blue bottle. We were always told never to use blue with wine, though no one seems to know where this taboo came from, but people seem to like it, as it is selling extraordinarily well," says Geraldine Jago, Wine Development Manager of The Victoria Wine Company.

In fact the bottles themselves can be an important selling point. Remember those Paul Masson carafes we all collected a few years ago?

"The newest bottle is sexy - long and slim with a flanged lip at the top to stop drips, and a tiny label," says David Howes. "The Californian company Gallo have used this shape for their wine Turning Leaf, and a Chilean winemaker called Ignacio Recabarren has used it for a wine called Trio which he produced for us. He says the name represents the three elements of wine, the soil, the climate and the maker - he is a very vain man!

When he first produced Trio, Ignacio said, 'This bottle has the beauty of Sharon Stone - you can

see everything you are getting!"

An increasing number of wines are named after people, some of whom exist and some don't. The Victoria Wine Company, for example have a popular range named Big Frank - there's Big Frank's Red, Big Frank's White, and his latest, a sweet wine called Big Frank's Seriously Sticky. "Yes, Big Frank exists," says Geraldine Jago. "He is Frank Chludinski, a Pole from Boston who married a lady from the South of France whose father had a vineyard, and now he makes wine. We also have Ed's Red, and he exists too. He is flying winemaker Ed Fla-

However, Fat Bastard, a Chardonnay sold by the new Firkin chain is not named after an overbearing vineyard owner with a big appetite. Instead the wine was apparently christened when its French maker, Thierry Boudinaud, tasted it and pro-

nounced it "a fat bastard of a Chardonnay". Trendy chain Oddbins have a few characters of the imaginations of eccentric winemaker Randall Grahm and the artist Ralph Steadman, who designs many of their labels. "There is the Catalyst, a cat named in a bar in Santa Cruz, close to Randall's vineyard, and there is Cardinal Zin. a religious chap who has been tempted off the cheapest wines."

straight and narrow by the Zinfandel grape," says Oddbins' Karen Wise.

Randall's other wines include the authentically Italian sounding Rosato Del Fiasco, named because the first batch proved a disaster, and two best-selling bottles simply called Bloody Good White and Bloody Good Red.

Thankfully, wine isn't yet competing with alcopops such as Two Dogs, named after the rude schoolboy joke about the first thing the Indian baby saw outside its wigwam. But jokiness is definitely catching on. The Victoria Wine Company already sells a New Zealand Sauvignon called Cat's Pee On A Gooseberry Bush, which surprisingly sells well, and even sillier names look set

It may all be just a gimmick, but it seems to be working. Our consumption of wine has quadrupled in the last 25 years, and even wine experts are smiling, "Cat's Pee and Fat Bastard may be straining the boundaries of good taste, but on the whole the use of humour to break down the fear of buying their own, though they admit these exist only in wine and to make it more accessible can only be a good thing," says Gareth Lawrence of the Wine and Spirit Education Trust. "Of course it wouldn't work if the wine itself didn't match up, but that isn't the case. In the last few years there has been a vast improvement in the standards of even the

...but pull out all the stops

Sam Coates tests that most important of seasonal aids - the corkscrew

belt buckle, blunt razor or thumb is all it takes the persistent to open a bottle of wine. However, for those not prepared to display such desperation, the heart-sinking mantra: Does anyone have a corkscrew?" must be chorused at every party.

In the true spirit of the clergy, it was a devotee of the cloth who, by patenting the corkscrew, brought man closer to drink. The first English patent was issued to a ciergyman named Samuel Henshall in 1795. He simply added a disc to the end of the worm (the curly bit that goes into the cork) to compress the cork and improve the screw's pulling power. It was sold at an auction last April, along with a 1905 German model whose handles, between which the screw was attached, formed the legs of a semi-naked lady.

Both items came from the per-sonal collection of an Italian. Gianni Giachin, who lived

in London until his death last year and had one of the world's biggest corkscrew collections. The public were obviously delighted by them, paying between £100 and £2,000 per

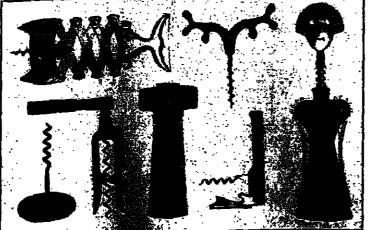
For David Howse, a Threshers' wine taster, the way the bottle is opened affects the taste of the wine. "The corkscrews which require less effort are better," he says, "because they cause the least agitation to the liquid inside. I think the Screwpull is the best, if a little expensive: we sell models for up to £80. On the whole, those devices with a nail-like worm are the worst because they break easily and require a lot more effort."

The Independent had the onerous task of opening innumerable bottles, so we could advise our readers which corkscrew to buy this Christmas.

Anna Green corkscrew, £32.95 A must for socialite Dr Who fans. This monster contraption bears more than a passing resemblance to a Time Lord-chasing cyberman, dressed in a turquoisecoloured party dress. The design is very Freudian: when you push down its arms, the cork pops out from under the girl's dress. Hideous the contraption and hideous the price.

Walter's Friend, £4.95 This is the equivalent of a penknife with the more exciting arms removed. It's small and light, which makes it





amiably portable, but also easy to misplace. If you don't want to appear pretentious, the Harrods label can be scratched off without too much difficulty. Less than a fiver, it's probably the cheapest thing in the whole store. (Harrods, Knightsbridge: 0171 730 1234)

Screwpull, by Le Creuset, £16.80 This corkscrew would have made Dr Rubik proud; those with aching well clear. However, according to corkscrew connoisseurs, owning this device is the zenith to which the wine-drinking public should aspire. It is based (says the office intellec-tual) on the Crick and Wasson dou-the Connun Shop (0171 581 0909);

ble helix principle, and its Teflon coating means that little effort is required: just place the lip of the device against the bottle and start turning. Available from Diverti-menti Mail Order (0171 386 9911).

Antiers, £17.95 Elegantly sculpted to fit Frank Bruno's knuckles, this one is based on the original tried and tested design. Don't bother to buy it - in fact, if you do have £17.95 to throw away, why not spend it on international phone calls in an attempt to track down a plastic model of Buzz Lightyear from Disney's Toy Story?

Autopull, £9.95 "The ethos of the Nineties is convenient but dull." In keeping with this, the Autopull is about as boring as a corkscrew can get. It is made of dull black or white plastic, is based on the principal of the screwpull, and it works! Its only men-

tionable feature is

its bland appearance: it would clash horribly at the dinner table with the antique candlesticks and Water-

The Lazy Fish, £19.95 There is a wide range of possible uses for the Lazy Fish but a corkscrew is not the first that springs to mind. It could be more gainfully used as a novelty door stopper. It strongly resembles a pair of pliers with the end missing. One look at it, and it'll be quite clear why this will undoubtedly be the most popular corkscrew this Christmas. Its bright, shiny surface lures the most vulnerable of relatives (still with no idea of what to buy for Christmas) - and its elastic design will keep the recipient amused for many minutes. The fishbone concertina structure drastically reduces the effort needed to extract a cork from a bottle - but unfortunately it rather impedes the progress of the screw into the

La Poigne Wood Corkscrew, £29.95 La problème ici, c'est que les instructions sont en français. Alors, according to the back of the packet this is an "objet précieux"; that is, brains this Christmas should steer you have to pay a lot of money for a chunk of wood which you can screw to the wall to hold the

cork in the first place.

Adwatch: liqueurs By Meg Carter

Proof (if it were needed) that Christmas is but ten days away comes in the blitz of commercials now airing for Santa's favourite: sticky liqueurs. Just as aunties and uncles across the land dust off the remains of last year's bottle, so the drinks companies are lining up their battalions for this year's festive onslaught.

Archers, Baileys, DiSaronno amaretto, Sheridan's, Tia Maria and more - not to mention a selection of sherries and ports from Croft's to Cockburn - are once more gracing our TV screens, each

with a promise of elegance and sophistication.

Take Sheridan's, currently sporting a stylish black-and-white ad highlighting conflicting emotions - love and hate, trust and betrayal. You can't appreciate one without the other, the endline explains: just as the brand's dark coffee liqueur must be mixed with the accompanying white liqueur

cream. Likewise, Tia Maria. Having dropped Eighties super model Iman, advertising agency Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe's new campaign features an enigmatic Princess of Darkness. The sequence of artfully shot ads, which blend style and sophistication with film noir, were shot by Highlander 2 director Andy

Morahan. Yet behind the customary gloss a number of manufacturers are attempting to effect a subtle change of tack. For many years, Christmas has marked the focus of their year's marketing activities. Now, they are attempting to position their products as an all-year-round tipple.

So. Tia Maria exploits the vogue for quaffing coffee liqueur mixed with Coke. And Baileys, which for the first time uses humour, features a couple in evening dress apparently getting up to something naughty in an ancient, rickety lift (in fact, they are simply enjoying an innocent glass of Baileys).

The idea is to encourage consumers to consider

drinking Baileys whenever they go out - not just when they're staying at home, explains Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Baileys' agency Court Burkitt and Company. A previous campaign featured a man bringing in sacks of ice to add to the drink - another attempt to re-position it as more than an after-dinner liqueur.

"We know people love the taste of all these liqueurs, but unfortunately they tend to categorise - in this case, liqueurs are still seen by many as after dinner drinks or as drinks for Christmas," adds Tim O'Donnell. marketing controller at International Distillers (IDV) and Vintners whose brands include Baileys, Sheridan's, DiSaronno and Drambuie.

However, IDV has worked to re-position its liqueurs by encouraging consumers to try them in pubs, bars and restaurants, throughout the year and in higger measures - as a long drink. Baileys, which remains market leader with sales 70 per cent ahead of any other product, now enjoys only 60 per cent of annual sales at Christmas; not so long ago the figure was nearer 100 per cent.

The move seems to be paying off. Sales of DiSaronno are up 60 per cent year on year over the past 12 months. Meanwhile Sheridan's, a much newer brand, is "flying", he claims.

The effect on the liqueurs market as a whole, however, remains harder to quantify. Current estimates suggest total sales are growing at a much slower rate - annual sales now stand at around 32 million bottles, According to O'Donnell, growth for IDV has been at the expense of smaller rival brands.

Small wonder if competitors are now also attempting to re-position their fiqueurs as a cool and flexible drink anytime and anywhere. They just can't afford not to. After all, it's hardly good for business if your product is only served three days out of 365, while for the rest of the year it sits in sticky obscurity - at the back of the drinks cabinet.

Chic and cheerful

Philippa Czernin on the joys of festive shopping in Calais

tocking up for Christmas means anticipating lots more of everything: more consumption of food and drink, definitely more expense, probably more rows, and, if you're lucky, more fun, too. But to achieve the fun bit, you need to heed the motto of every great organiser and "Be prepared" or, as the French say. "Soyez prepare!" And with cross-Channel ferry and hovercraft fares at an annual, seasonal low, a day trip to Calais becomes a happy option, particu-larly as the pound is getting stronger against the franc.

You need to plan carefully. Not only will you have to calculate whether what looks like a bargain in francs actually is when converted into pounds, but you also have to make sure that the ferry, trains and buses connect so you don't waste valuable shopping time. If you go by ferry, bear in mind that the crossing takes an hour and a half and that the system of "turn-up and go" means that at peak times you might not be able to get on to your first-choice sailing, and that France is an hour ahead

Make the trip easier for yourself by taking a shopping trolley, however bad this may be for your image. The one restric-tion imposed by the ferry companies and Hoverspeed on walk-on passengers' baggage capacity is that you can only bring on board "as much as you can carry". Alternatively, take a car and exercise your packing skills in filling it up.
You can find your first bargains even

before you arrive in France. In the ferry departure terminal at Dover, currencyconverters, maps, phrase books and other "essential" French shopping accessories are for sale at discount prices. On board, queues form immediately for duty-free not surprising when pre-Christmas promotions mean you can buy a litre of spirits for £5.99 which would cost around £14 at home. Since the EU border controls were relaxed, you can buy your duty limit accounts for the passengers who head

straight back to England, touching only a foot on to French soil to satisfy Customs. But the real attractions of a shopping trip to Calais are the hypermarkets. Mam-

mouth is the nearest to the ferry terminal and easy to get to. Those without cars should take the free daytime bus from the Calais ferry dock, get out at the station and then catch the No 5 bus. Alternatively, take the No 7 bus to Cité Europe, the megalithic shopping centre at the head of the Channel Tunnel. With over 150 shops, including the newest Carrefour hypermarket. Cité Europe demands stamina. If you are driving, follow the signs out of Calais – they're impossible to miss.

Mammouth is a hybrid of the familiar and the unusual: the first shop you see is

Sainsbury's! But this is Sainsbury's with a difference – it sells only alcohol. Beer and wine are probably the best bargains of the trip; all the supermarkets in Calais have good ranges and French duty on wine is considerably lower than in the UK. You can buy Sainsbury's Civée Prestige Claret for Fr34.90 or treat yourself in Man-mouth to three bottles of 1992 St Emilion Grand Cru for Fr119. Seasonal promotions on beer feature such bargains as 24 bottles of locally-brewed Saint Omer for Fr32.95 or 26 bottles of Kronenbourg for Fr48.50 with six bottles of "Bière de Noël" thrown in. Watch out for cheap champagne, however: it can be undrink-able and back in the UK you can buy a Grande Marque champagne in Majestic or Oddbins for less than in a French

supermarket. The choice of food is overwhelming. On the cheese counter you'll find there are 12 varieties of Camembert at every stage of ripeness, goat's cheese in all shapes and sizes (a pyramid of Chavroux pur chèvre costs just Fr10.95) and Brie on promotion at knock-down prices. French delicacies make good Christmas presents: look out for marrons glacés, huge, sweet chestnuts beautifully presented in wooden boxes (at all over again on the return journey, which Fr64.95 for just 24, they're expensive but worth it), saucissons, ranging in price from



French leave

P&O European Ferries: 0990 980980. Walk-on £1 per person. Car £15 plus £1 per person with a £10 supplement payable on Saturday.

Stena Line: 0990 707070. Foot passengers £1, Dover/Calais return, or £5 including rail travel from London Charing Cross and connecting South Eastern Train stations to Dover (book five working days in advance). Car £15 plus £1 per person with a £10

Fr14.90 to Fr89, bars of white chocolate (four for Fr9.70) and tresses of plaited garlic (Fr32.95). If you can eat them quickly enough, why not buy some oysters - a dozen cost from Fr19.95 to Fr27.50.

You'll find children's clothes are good value and quality, as well. But even as you shop, there lurks at the back of your mind the thought that most of the goods you flock over to France to buy are actually available in Britain, too. But then you'd miss out on the fun, the choice, stylish
French packaging and novelties such as
genuine French boules sets, packets of
French lollipops and "Boîte Cotillons",

When you get to Calais keep one eye out
for seasonal promotions, the other eye for
Continental luxuries and a finger furnly
on your currency converter.

supplement payable on Saturday. Ferry takes one-and-a-half hours but the Sea Lynx, which runs at specific times, takes only 45 minutes.

Seafrance: 0990 711711. Foot passengers £1. Cars £5 plus £1 per person (book in advance).

Hoverspeed: 01304 240241. Book in advance at £5 for foot passengers or £17 for a car with two passengers and £19 for more than two passengers. The earliest leaves at 7.30am and the last back is at 8.30pm. See tomorrow's Independent on Sunday for a special

party kits filled with masks and streamers.

- you leave early, get back late and shop like mad in the middle - and there is a

strong possibility that you won't find time

for that wonderful French seafood meal

you promised yourself. To make the out-

ing a success and the start of happy Christ-

mas, do some comparative price research

before you go and work out a basic shop-

ping list - it's easy to get carried away. When you get to Calais keep one eye out

Day trips are not for the faint-hearted

Hoverspeed/Independent offer of free travel for foot passengers on day trips and £5 day-trip tickets if you take a car and up to five passengers. Journey time, 35 minutes. Le Shuttle: 0990 353535. Three

departures every two hours. Booking essential. For travel before 6am, a dayreturn ticket for a car and up to five passengers is £49. After 6am, £59. Tours: Eurolines: 01582 485591. Day

trips to the Cité Europe shopping complex for £18, Wednesdays and Saturdays until 21 December, plus

every Sunday in December. Leaves London Victoria coach station with additional pick-up points in south-east London and Kent.

Local branches of Going Places offer a special Christmas shopping trip to Calais on Le Shuttle from only £25 for up to Sweden Friday to Sunday.
Other information: Calais Tourist

Office (English spoken), 12 Boulevard Clémenceau, 62100 Calais (00 33 321 96 62 40). Opening times: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm and Sun, 10am-1pm.

Comparative prices

Sainsbury's Cuvee Prestige Claret Kronenbourg 12 bottles of Becks beer Fosters lager 24 cans 24 cans draught Guinness Bars of white chocolate (4 for) Pyramid of goats' cheeze Tresses of garlic oysters per dozen

IN FRANCE Fr.48.50 (£5.57) Fr.160 (£18.39) Fr.9.70 (£1.11) Fr.10.95 (£1.26) Fr.32.95 (£3.79) £2.95 Fr.1995 (£2.29) £5.88 Fr.59,90 (£6.88)

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pressures. Box No 151/27.
in GLE MAN, late 30's, living on Henta, seets silm n/s woman for intendship/romance. Box No E1779.

ALL ATTRACTIVE MALE age 33

NO E1796.
NUSTRALIAN IN OXPORD, Urbana St male, 44 yrs old, who loves to laugh seeks warm, fively, end cultured lady. Box No E1781.
AUSTRALIAN IN OXPORD, urbana

68 male, 44 yrs old, who loves to leugh seeks warm, Evely, and cul-tured lady. Box No 1:1781.

MAN, 68, LOVER OF old cities and lonely hills, the written word and painted canvas, seeks woman writt shaller interests for recipro-

SLIM, DARK, PETITE, stirilictive prof. fessele, 33, enjoys art, the-atree, cinems and travelling. Seeks prof. male companion. Photo appreciated. Anywhere. Box No 1:1780.

Box No 1:780.

SOLATED COTTAGE AND jungle to share. Widower, 70, post-graduate, senti-retired, fit and active. Seeks an educated elim bedy, active, 50-65 yrb old, to share work and possible faters. Would Suit country lover, est-soo retuges or dut-spoten. Photo pleese. Box No 1:1475...

EASY GOING PROFESSIONAL male 33, seeks lady 25-55 for km, triendayling and more.

No L:1796.

HANCS M 38 size gd looks 5'10" Prosperous blah blah blah etc. Sesta sissog F for blah blah blah etc. Photo soprec'd. Box No h1785.

CT788.
FORTNIGHTLY FORTYISH LEAN
LOVER wanted by woman who
also enjoys cycling and sollude.
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lemad, Box No L1785.

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28, seels written proof of lest one pretty intelligent allm/petite P2020 fell in London. Box No L1752.

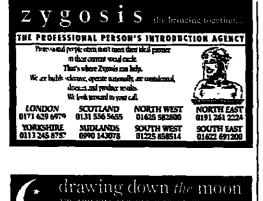
TEACHER, 35, WARM, caring and quite good-locking, seeks a decent, unpretentious women for leughter and compenionable. Con-

decent, unpresented to the laughter ent compenionality. Low-don area. Box No 1:1794.

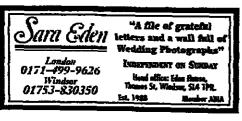
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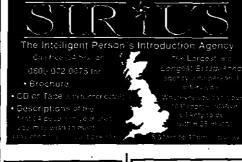
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ESSEX MAN 49% 510, slim, fit, own teeth, own hair, own ideas. Seeks lady, 40ish, slim, who

looks good at the Opera, and in a Transport cafe, who feels fine with candlelit dinner, and on the back of my motorbike, who looks good in a dress and in jeans. I am the same except for the dress. She would be intelligent but not pushy, romantic, seasual and tactile. Tory's need not bother. I dislike football, but love MORSE. She wants to be in love, and to stay that way. Photo would be nice BOX NO. I: 1791

INDEPENDENT HEARTS NOTICE TO READERS The Independent Way to Meet New People The Independent canno gnarantee that respondents will receive By placing an advertisement in the The Independent Hearts section of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday you will

a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

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M, 40, BLONGE BLUE, St, solved is, 40, SLUMDE SILVE, in solvent, handsome character, honest 5'11", rough dismond, WLTM fem inte, pretty, smart ledy. York stareAnywhere, Box No LTBO. PERCEPTIVE & REFLECTIVE M. young 52, seeks slim, open-huaried, 40+ F, with capacity for love. SW London based. Photo appreciated. Box No L1801.

don.
Male, 41, 5"10", blue-eyed, elim (no thirl), happy, big heart, vegy (no sandais), own business, seeks verm, spirited woman, 35-46. London home Counties. SLIM, ATTRACTIVE MALE, disc log, garn. antimed, co-director, s'B'nall, fair heir, blue eyes, crastive and tactile. WiTall stender intelligent indy to ahere the nice things. South London. Box No. 1748.

E:748.

M 5*11" FIT healthy widowed loyal graduate professional. Hills streams walking opera singing/choral home-piath n's convensation solvent 57 fms. Box No L1752.

ATTRACTIVE, ARTICLEATE, FIT, prof. F 38, seeks similar latinsh is for company. Wessex. Box No L1749.

SEYES OLD TURKISH MALE, Goodlooking, senygoing, warm, housitable, seeks seawooine. Goodlooking, easygoing, warn hospitable, seeks easygoin lemals. Box No L1764,

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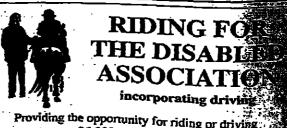
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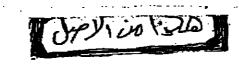


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*NRS Jan - June 95

homes & money

Wall Street's bubble could burst.....22 Letting out your home to film-makers......23



My biggest mistake

Businessman Howard Hodgson

ack in 1987, when I still had Hodgson Holdings, my funeral directors company, I aran past the guard on to the platform, ignored him shouting at me and had to get an early train from Birmingham to London. We were buying Ingels Industries, a chain of funeral homes, from House of Fraser, and I had 60 institutions waiting at the other end to see me at Capel Cure Myers.

I got to Birmingham International Station, locked the car, grabbed my briefcase and tapped my back pocket to make sure I'd got my wallet. As soon as I did it, I knew where it was -on the bedside cabinet at home. That was 25 minutes in the opposite direction and it would have meant missing the train. I didn't have enough petrol in the car to get to London and, anyway, I would never have made it in time.

It was a 6.40 train, and my first meeting was at 9am. I had no wallet, no cash, no credit cards - nothing. But I had to be there for those meetings,

jumped on the train. I thought 'In for a penny...' and went and sat in first class to have breakfast. When the ticket inspector came round and asked for my ticket, I said I was terribly sorry, but I didn't have any money. He said: 'What do you mean you haven't got

any money - you're having breakfast!'

Fortunately, I did have a phone, so
I got my branch of Lloyds Bank on the phone and, much to the amazement of everybody else sitting there eating breakfast, got them to give the ticket collector all my credit card details. Then I called someone at Capel Cure Myers, and asked him to wait downstairs with a £20 note to pay for the taxi from Euston. So I managed to get all the way there without any cash. We had our three meetings, each of them with about 20 institutions.

About three weeks later. I was buying lunch for a journalist from the Birminghum Post at the Savoy in London. As I was telling him how clever I was, I tapped my back pocket to illustrate the point - and I nearly died, because I'd done it again.
I wasn't going to tell the journalist

that, because it would have been too that, because it would have been too embarrassing. He'd have thought I went through life either being terribly inefficient or never paying for anything. So I said I had to go to the loo, and went up to the public telephones. I called the bank and they said: 'How do we know it's you?' I said I'd called them from the train abut three weeks them from the train abut three weeks ago, and they said: 'It's definitely you'

I got them to call the manager of the restaurant and give him my credit card details, so he could make out the slip for me to sign. All credit to Lloyds Bank, they managed to do just that. Back in the office. I'm sure they were

wondering whether this idiot should really be running a public company.

I've had a very bad back lately, and one of the things they tell you is not to carry a big wallet full of credit cards in your back pocket, because it makes you st unevenly, which is bad for your spine. So now I can't put my wallet in my back pocket, and I don't know where to put it. I generally put it on the floor of the restaurant, then there's hell to pay when I get back to the office without it.

It's pathetic, really. I'm worse than a four-year-old. Every time I leave the building they all ask: 'Have you got your hat on, have you got your scarf, have you got your wallet?' So I haven't got any better."

Howard Hodgson made £7m when he sold his funeral directors business in 1990, and went on to buy Ronson in 1994. He was talking to Paul Slade.

•A refund in five years. What's the snag?

You'll probably forget to claim it, says Nic Cicutti

mid the seemingly identical sales promotions plastered over the shop fronts in our high streets, one offer is becoming increasingly common: "Buy now and get all your money back in five years." Does this sound inter-

It does to growing numbers of people. After all, who ould turn down the offer of a total cash refund, where you also get to keep the item you bought only a few years earlier? Deals such as this one are now being snapped up by many thousands of new customers each year.

Office of Fair Trading, a com-petition watchdog, this week warned customers to think carefully before entering into such an agreement.

A spokesman said: "If these schemes catch on, in five years' time there will be either a lot of happy or disappointed customers. Unfortunately, until the time is up we will not know which one.

The offer is beguilingly simple. You buy an item from a shop and some time later vou receive a "cheque" - an IOU in reality - through the post for the same amount from the store. The cheque has a tear-off slip, which you complete and send to a months to two years and finance company, registering arrange about 60 deals a for your money-back deal.

In theory, in five years' time you cash your IOU by sending it to the finance to arrange but the problem house, which will repay your original money after checking that you are on the register. The deals are most often

arranged through Intervest Capital, a US firm with offices in Grays, Essex.

Peter Kirwan is managing director of the Sofa Com-pany, a firm with about 50



outlets around the country. He says: "We have been offering cashbacks for about 18

"We tended to offer interest-free credit. That costs us was that not everyone wants it, especially someone who prefers to pay in cash. Then cashbacks became available."

Sofa Company sends a voucher to customers shortly after a sale takes place. They then have 14 days to send on the completed form to Intervest. After the five years are

tem is based on the likelihood that few people will take ail the right steps needed to claim successfully.

their money back in five years," he says. "We believe that Intervest are large enough to meet any liabilities in a few years time. If it does go wrong, that does not mean people can come back to us. We did not plan it that way. We have paid

up, there is a 30-day time limit read all the terms. Mr Kirwan admits the sys-

There may only be about 60 per cent of people who get

someone to take care of it." Intervest operates from

offices formerly used by another firm, Warranty Management, which once acted as its marketing agent.
Warranty Management,
whose staff also now work for Intervest, once acted on behalf of a Belgian company, Homefield Insurance, which is no longer believed to be Intervest claims to have assets of more than \$500m and enough additional insur-ance to pick up the slack in the event of a rash of claims.

Adrian Roman, practice manager for Caplans, a firm of solicitors based in Harrow which has acted for Intervest since September, says: -11 system is based on the fact. that there will be a certain slippage between people elible for the refund and those that apply for it. In effect, this is a financial memory test. If you remember to claim, you

operating in the UK.

will have passed the test.' The OFT accepts that it is not possible determine either way whether customers will get their money back in five years' time. It warns prospective buyers to:

 Ask to see a sample cheque, with all the terms on the back. Don't buy unless you

 Think of a way to remind yourself to claim in five years time, within all the specified limits.

 Send all your correspondence by recorded delivery. · Ask yourself: is the firm based in this country? Will you be able to claim if it is no longer based here? If your money is not refunded, would you still feel you had value from the product?

If you are not sure of the answers, it may be sensible to play safe and ignore the pro-



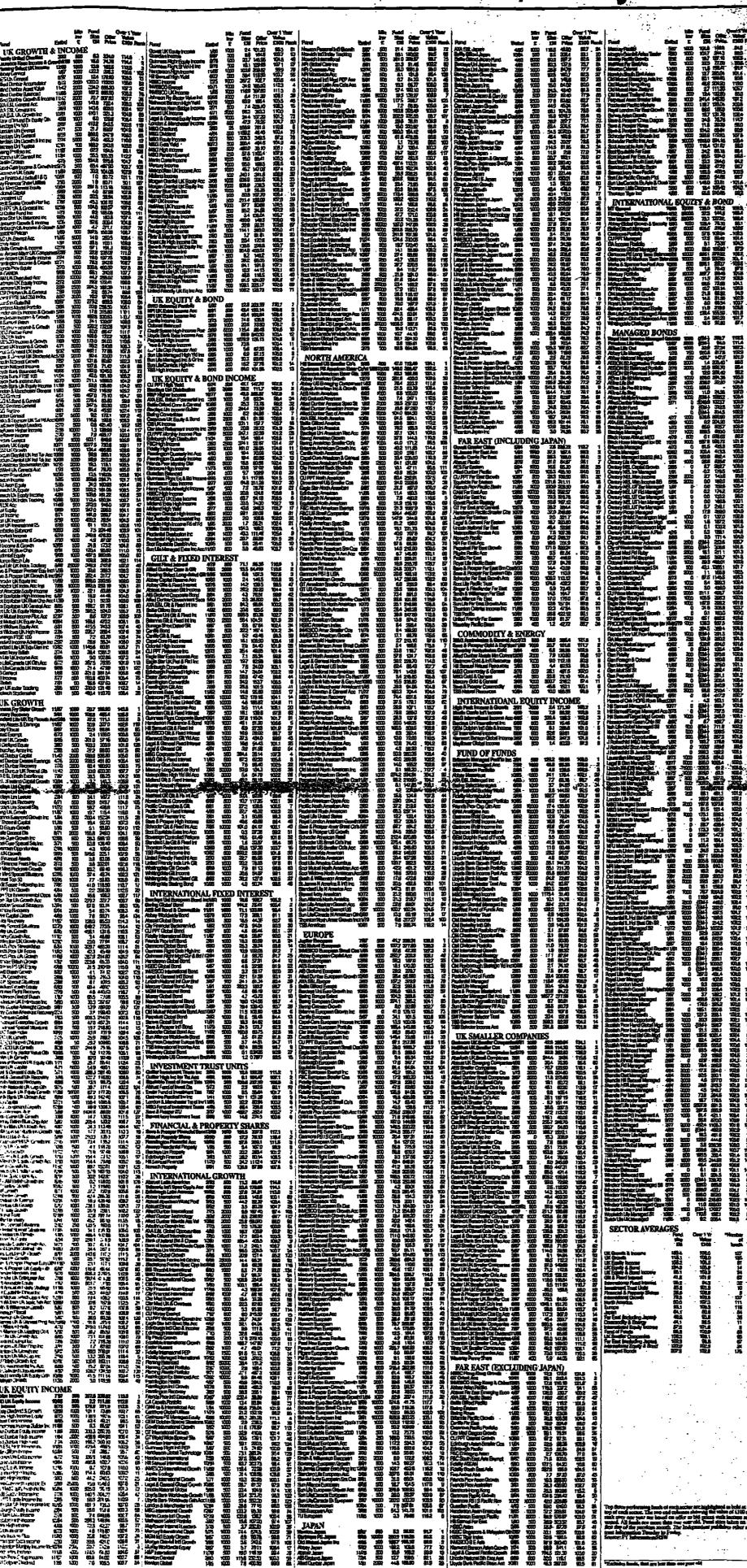


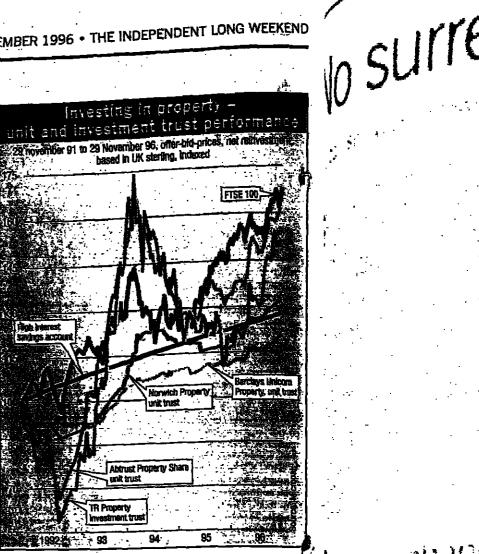
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SCOTTISH WIDOWS





Take shelter in property

Alison Eadie on specialist funds

illions of homeowners invest in property every month when they hand over a slice of their earnings to mortgage lenders to help pay off the loans they have taken out.

For a much smaller minority, however, property investment is something they do without having to buying a roof over their heads. Instead, it involves placing their money in a range of unit and investment trusts that have benefited from the recent recovery in the prop-

erty market.
The returns, after a decade in the doldrums, are encouraging. The FT prop-erty shares index is up 22 per cent on a year ago, against an 11 per cent rise for the stock market as a whole. Recovery is not exclusive

to the residential sector. Commercial property, after suffering its worst recession with both rents and capital 1990s, is now enjoying rental growth again, particularly in the retail sector. A rise in capital values should, so the theory goes, follow not far behind.

Institutional interest in property has revived. British institutions, casting a nervous eye on the giddy heights to which UK and US stock markets have risen, are looking at property as a solid alternative investment. Overseas institutions, most notably the Germans, have been piling in, attracted by

Returns are mixed and reveal the ravages of recession, TR Property, an invest-ment trust with 27 per cent of assets in direct property and the balance in property shares, shows total returns of 35 per cent in the year to the end of October, but over five years total returns are just 32 per cent. Barclays Unicorn and

Norwich Union property unit trusts, both with around 75 per cent of assets in direct commercial property and the balance in cash and property shares, are up 9 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the year to the beginning of December, according to Micropal.

Over five years they are up 33 per cent and 41 per cent. Abrust Property Share unit trust, which holds no direct property, is up 22 per cent over one year and 73 per cent over five years, Micropal shows.

Chris Turner, manager of TR Property, says, "Direct assets are holding the trust back at the moment as shares are racing ahead of property values. Shares normally predict the property market by six to 15 months. so values should be rising next year."

Andrew Thomson, who manages Barclays Unicorn Property Trust, points out property is less volatile in the short term than equities: "It took two to three years to knock capital values in the recession, because the valuation process takes time." By the same token a sustained rise in capital values will not

always the fear the stock market could be wrong. In 1993-1994, the FT property share index, buoyed by falling gilt yields, spurted ahead to reach peaks it has ues, despite a flurry of activdawn proved to be false.

However, with capital values still some 30 per cent below their 1989 peak and yields averaging 8 per cent, Mr Thomson considers now a good time to be getting: nto property: "Property yields are at or above those on medium-dated gilts, meaning property is priced as a no-growth asset, which it is not." With a little more growth in rental values,

yields should reduce and property enter a phase of risng value, he believes. Over the next two to three

years property is looking a pretty safe bet, according to Vince O'Brien; who runs Norwich Property Trust: "For the cautious investor who wants good income with some capital uplift, property is a good low- to medium-risk investment," he says. He is particularly keen on

out-of-town retail developments, where the trust has been strongly positioned for some time.

Planning restrictions limit supply, but retailers are still desperate for space so rents will rise for the foreseeable will rise for the foresecable future, he predicts. The trust is also increasing its exposure to high street retail property in the expectation it will benefit from rising consumer spending.

Mr Turner points for that the glut of excess capacity seems to be ending, although vacancy rates are still patchy. This is not a raging

patchy. This is not a raging bull market yet, but there are now takers for good quality space.

ment in the housing market is a good sign, Mr Turner reckons, although the commercial property market may be a year behind. West End offices and out-of-town shopping are the two areas the trust has picked to out-

As well as owning shares in companies heavily exposed to these areas, the trust uses direction structures the companies of th to go overweight. It has two Out-of-town retail watehouses in its portfeho.

favours office property in South-east England Manager William Hernmings says: "They suffered the hardest in recession and because development has been low for a few years there is a lack of supply.

Yields on property trusts vary according to underlying assets. Abroust at 2.3 per cent points out it is not a yield fund. Norwich and Barclays, because of high direct holdings, yield more than equity funds at 5.75 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively after annual charges. Mr Thomson says Bar-clays' yield should be above

6 per cent, when the trust is fully income-producing

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adout why

No surrender: try a sale instead

*You can sell your endowment policy second-hand. But there are complications, says Neil Baker

avers who no longer need their with-profits endowments or can-Onot afford the payments are often disappointed when they discover that the cash-in value of the pol-

icy is much less than they expected. It is sometimes possible to get more from the policy by selling it in a growing second-hand market instead of surrendering it to the company it was bought from. But after a court ruling last week, anyone considering such a move needs to

shop around much more carefully. The ruling, pushed through by the Office of Fair Trading, removes the 3 per cent ceiling on commissions currently paid to advisers who sell the policies on their clients' behalf.

The OFT argues that such a maximum commission restricts competition and works against a client's best interests. However, advisers argue that the effect of the OFT's move will be to force prices up, not down.

David Beale, a parmer in Beale Dobie, a leading firm of second-hand endowment buyers and sellers, says: "Free competition among intermediaries usually leads to increased rather than reduced commission levels, so

customers will ultimately lose out." With-profits endowment policies are usually used to help pay off a mortgage. But only a third of policies taken out actually reach maturity. Some 30 per cent are cancelled in the first three years and 40 per cent are surrendered or sold.

If a policy is surrendered, the amount the holder gets back from the life company varies. But endowment policies are structured so that much of the value of the policy does not come until the last few years before it matures. This is partly because such policies attract heavy initial charges. Also a large part of a policy's final value is made up of a terminal bonus. paid only at the end of its life.

British Insurers, endowments worth £5.5bn are surrendered each year. Not all of these are with-profits policies - the sort that are traded second hand - although an estimated £700m worth might be.

Peter Thorne, of financial advisers Parker Jerome, says the extra amount raised depends on the individual policy but it could be around 15 to 20 per cent above the surrender value. Because they already have a guaranteed minimum value and initial charges have been paid off, secondhand policies are seen as a good buy.

Policies organise a market, matching people who want to sell policies with investors who want to buy. In the past, these market-making

Companies such as Beale Dobie,

SEC Group and Absolute Assigned

companies have agreed among themselves that they would not pay more

than 3 per cent to financial advisers

believes that a maximum commission would actually operate as a fixed standard. Its court action has led to market-makers giving an undertaking not to set commission levels in future.

David Beale says: "Our view is that 3 per cent is very reasonable but anything above that level ought to be questioned by the policyholder."

Policyholders aiming to sell their endowments must now ask their adviser what commission they are getting and shop around for advice t seems too high.

Max Rosen, managing director of SEC, another endowment buyer and seller, says a further option is to bypass financial advisers and go to mar-ket-makers directly. About 50 per cent of policyholders do this at present. Those tempted to follow this route should remember that market-makers are not able to give advice.

Selling a policy in the traded

According to the Association of who bring in clients. But the OFT endowments market might not always be the best option. If you need money quickly or if you cannot afford to keep up payments, there are other after-

> Take out a loan against the policy. Even if you do not pay the loan off, the policy's final value, after all charges have been paid off, might be more than the current surrender value. • Make the policy "paid up". This

> means you stop paying premiums. The date of the payout stays the same and you will receive less. · If you still need a cash lump sum, surrender or sale are not the only options. Companies such as Foster &

Cranfield regularly auction policies.

Association of Policy Market Makers: 0171 729 8854 Foster & Cranfield: 0171 608 1941 For an independent financial adviser near you, call IFA Promotions: 0117



No need to hand over your valuable endowment policy to the insurance company Photograph: Ronald Grant



loose change

Allenbridge, the independent financial advice firm, is offering free copies of its new Peptalk guide, with details of best-performing Peps and how to choose between them. Call 0500-

Midland Bank is offering new fixed-rate mortgages, including a two-year offer of 5.99 per cent, with booking fees and completion refunded on completion. Details from all

Scottish Provident is launching two investment funds, Secure 100 and Secure 100 Maximiser, offering capital growth linked either to the FTSE-100 stock market index or actively managed by its fund manager, Prolific. Minimum investment is £10,000, Details from inde-

and distribution and

pendent financial advisers. Call 0117 971 1177.

Leeds & Holbeck is offering a 7.5 per cent gross top rate on deposits over £50,000 in its Albion Bonus postal account. including a guaranteed bonus of 1.5 per cent if no withdrawais are made before 30 April 1998. Call 0113 225 7777.

Canada Life is adding free accidental HIV cover to its critical illness and private health insurance products sold to members of the emergency services dentists, doctors, prison officers, and medical consultants. Details from 01701 651122.

Royal Bank of Scotland is offering a new fixed-rate Tessa, paying 6.5 per cent in year one and rising to 10.75 per cent in year five.

SEC

Small Francisco

SELLING YOUR ENDOWMENT: FOR BIGGER MONEY

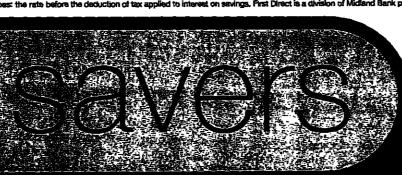
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2.25	2.45	3.1	3.5			
2.8	2.8	3.5	4.2			
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Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

	Telephone number	Account	Notice : or term	Deposit	Rate %	inter inter
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Postman 8S	01202 292444	Instant Access	instant	£100	4.50	Year
Co-Operative Bank Direct Line	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	25,000	4.75	Monti Year
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Children's Bond		issue H	5 year	£25	6.75F	Matu

fear of finance

The Office of Fair Trading is generally reckoned to be a staunch defender of consumers' interests. It has been responsible for far-reaching reforms of how financial products are sold, including a requirement for companies to disclose the charges they

impose on their policies.
Such reforms, plus the hard-hitting reports produced on a range of issues. from warranties on electrical goods to with-profit endowments, help keep companies on their toes.

At the same time, some of its officials are capable of the most crass errors of judgement. Elsewhere in this section. Neil Baker describes how the OFT has acted to scrap a maximum commis sion agreement on the sale of second-hand endowment policies.

Until now, any adviser acting on behalf of a client wanting to buy or sell such a policy could not charge more than 3 per cent commission. The OFT has now stepped in, arguing that such a policy is uncompetitive. By banning the deal, it hopes advisers will be prepared to offer

cheaper deals. That is the theory. What is the practice? Well, in the early 1990s, the life and pensions industry operated a similar maximum commissions agreement. For all its imperfections, the system worked reasonably well until it was scrapped on the grounds that it prevented people getting an even better deal.

So what has happened to commissions since then? The average rate paid to advisers has risen in the past five years by up to 50 per cent, well ahead of inflation.

Who was responsible for scrapping the old commissions agreement? The OFT

How do we know about what has happened to commissions? Because by a supreme irony, the OFT's very success in forcing companies to disclose how much they pay their advisers also demonstrates the extent of its failure to control the

amount. Who was it that pointed out how history has a tendency to repeat itself, first as tragedy, then as farce?

Journalists are often seen as cynical creatures. I wonder why? This week I received a letter from Cigna,

the insurance firm.
"Dear Nic," it intoned. "Dear Nic," it intoned.
"Christmas is a time of great
enjoyment, with houses full
of fun and laughter, especially if you have young children about. However, it is a
sad but unavoidable fact that
accidents still happen in the

festive season... The letter goes on to tell me about Cigna's policies which, for £5 a month, will pay up to £50,000 for accidents, including the loss of a child's sight.

As an exercise in cynicism, nothing beats this little mis-sive. To think that we chop down trees for this.

Nic Cicutti

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Wall Street's bubble * could burst soon

fyranjudgera stock marketen like a suspected villain, by the company it keeps, then it is time to start getting very worried by what is happening on Wall Street.

As we approach the last gasp of the great bull market of the past two years (the thirds in that time), you would have to be very foolish to ignore the voices that are warning investors to beware of the fallout from the inevitable puncturing of Wall

Street's bubble when it comes. The most important of these voices, of course, is that of Alan Greenspan, who as chairman of the Federal Reserve, the American central bank, has more power than anyone to change the directions of markets. Nine days ago, he sent markets the world over into a tizzy with some elliptical but carefully crafted musings about the risks to economic welfare posed by "irrational exuber-

ance" among investors. Since then, those who are paid to watch the Fed have been busy attempting to read deeper meaning into the chairman's words. Everyone knows he has been keeping a close watch in recent months on Wall Street for signs of excess. The surge of public and speculative money that has poured into US shares in the last two years must at some point run the risk of creating a danger ously inflated asset "bubble".

The immediate question among analysts has been whether the Federal Reserve is preparing to try and puncture the boom with a pre-emptive interest rate rise. Despite the initial panicky response, the reassuring view on Wall Street earlier this week was that no rate rises are imminent and that the bull market case therefore remains just about intact.

But Mr Greenspan's intervention - whether it was a warning shot or a more serious threat to try and stop Wall Street in its tracks - has brought other concerns out into the open.
Whether it is seasoned

investors such as Sir James Goldsmith, or respected market pundits such as Barton Biggs of Morgan Stanley and Henry Kaufman, late of Salomons, the heaviest hitters are nearly all on the side of those who are urging investors not to tempt fate by being sucked into Wall Street's all too "exuberant" rise.

In this column two weeks



Jenathan Davis

ago, I quoted the view of Peter Bernstein, another respected investment adviser. that while Wall Street might not be overvalued on conventional criteria, the risks of investing had risen sharply.

And only this week, Lord Rees-Mogg, the former editor of the Times, who has excellent, contacts in Washington and the financial world, repeated his warning that a Wall Street crash is inevitable.

He made the point that if the dividend yield on the US stock market (now at a record low of just over 2 per cent) merely reverted to its longterm average (around 4.5 per cent), it would imply a fall in the Dow Jones index of no less than 70 per cent. His calculations suggest Wall Street is already discounting seven more years of 10 per cent growth in company earnings despite the fact that the rate of profit growth is already very nigh by historical standards.

I have been impressed by

the analysis done by Albert Edwards, market strategist at Kleinwort Benson, who has shown clearly (as my chart shows) that the improvement in companies return on equity in the US is driven mainly by companies substituting debt for equity, not by any underly-

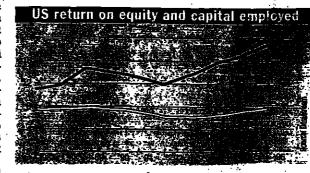
on total capital employed. This increase in gearing does raise return on equity and therefore reported profits - but it also means (a) that investors are taking on greater risk than might at first appear; and (b) that in the same geared way, company earnings will fall much faster too when

the next downturn comes. The point is not that all these clever and experienced people might be wrong. Far from it; markets frequently make monkeys out of the most intelligent and well informed individuals. Nor is there any inconsistency in saying a are basically overvalued but may still rise further. Markets always do things to excess, and timing the tube is the hardest thing in the world.

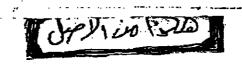
In fact, it is perfectly possi-

ble to justify the current valuation on Wall Street. What matters to prudent investors is that they are aware of the risks they take on if they choose to

ignore the warning voices. When the chairman of the Fed starts making warning noises it pays to sit up and take notice. Not for nothing is the adage "Don't Fight the Fed" one of the oldest in Wall Street's lexicon.







Moving in the movie-makers

By Penny Jackson

tanding at the top of a 20ft ladder at 2am holding pillows over BBC film rejected neo-Georgian mansions Rosy Brenan anticipated when she let a film company use her home.

"A Canadian pop group came to do a promotion video in a day. They had been using our electricity, which drained the supply to the burglar alarm, triggering its fail-safe system. I was trying to deaden the noise so they could carry on with the filming while reassuring my irate neighbours that I was doing my best." Tales of overrun schedules and chaotic

deter Mrs Brenan - she put it down to experience, and has just seen a thoroughly sucmence, and nas just scen a unitoring in home, chosen as the setting for one of the BBC's prime Christmas programmes. The L-shaped house, with wings and courtyard, have a formula and is a hizarre has six acres of grounds, and is a bizarre and theatrical mixture of different styles. It is essentially a Victorian house which enveloped Georgian and pre-Georgian

buildings to dramatic effect.

Rosy and Patrick Brenan fell for this folly, as they call it, 11 years ago while looking for something smaller. Letting the house out as a film location seemed the

BBC film rejected neo-Georgian mansions a burglar alarm was not what in favour of this Sussex house with its classical drawing room, Grinling Gibbons-style dining room, and Jacobean staircase and hall. The music room was returned to its original use as a billiard room for the filming. "The company could only use the rooms specified in the contract. I was warned I wouldn't recognise them," says Rosy Brenan. "It took just 15 minutes for an army of removal men to move out our antique furniture and put in a herd of zebra-Tales of overrun schedules and chaotic management are legion among those who decide to hire out their homes. It didn't com. There was a bit of crisis when some-

one found they had forgotten the bulbs for two huge candelabra held aloft by blackamoors, and there was a raid on the village shops. It was all very good fun, but I could never have lived with any of those things." That filming took only a day, but when it runs into weeks owners can find their

houses getting a free make-over. Anna Sugden, who runs Strutt & Parker's film location agency, says that Lord Huntington was so taken with the way his house was redecorated for The Tenant of Wildfell Hall that he opted to keep it. "Sometimes the owners can choose the wallpaper and curtains, but this is likely obvious way of capitalising on its eccentric to be reflected in the facility fee."

Problems can arise, though, where there is no location manager. This person is a crucial link between the owners and the film company. He or she will see that the letter of the contract is fulfilled, covering such matters as insurance, prepar-

anion days, the length of the working day and tidying up.

Strutt & Parker specialises in period rural properties, from estates and manors to barns and cricket pitches, and will take up to 20 per cent commission. They are inundated with offers, but only a tiny percentage of properties are used.

Knight Frank, the estate agents, does

not run a list but will act on behalf of owners in drawing up the contract. James Macgregor, of the Hereford office, says that is easy to overlook details such as whether an upstains floor is strong enough to take the film equipment, and rules about smoking in the house. "At the very least, consult a solicitor," he advises.

Rosy Brenan's direct encounter with the Canadian crew left her in no doubt about the value of the location agent during the BBC's filming. But, with or without one, does it pay to spend a night up a ladder?

The money is good. But we see it as an occasional bonus, nothing you can rely on. It is certainly not worth it if you are excessively nervous about your house."



Anna Sugden says that, as a general rule, range from £500 to £3,500 a day. Our Owners can contact their local UK Screen commercials on a per-day basis pay the best rates, while feature film, television may not end up rich, but at least they can

Commission to register a property. The British Film Commission in London has

bask in the reflected fame of their houses.

Commuters seek their fortune on the south coast

Property prices in seaside towns south of London are enjoying a revival. Rosalind Russell reports

hen London sneezes. the south coast catches a cold. But when London is bot, it takes three months for the coast to feel pleasantly warm. Traditionally dependent on the well-being of the property market in the capital, the south coast is enjoying a late became a priority. They found house. revival in house prices. People one on an island in the middle who have been trapped in the of Port Solent. slow-moving market of the last and Hill, is still being built, but up and move. Recently com- some homes are already finpleted road improvements ished. Reached via a causeway, between coast and capital have or by boat, the three-storey brought areas previously considered beyond the pale within commuting distance.

Perhaps even more compelling, it's now acceptable to rooms with views across the nail that piece of old nonsense that anyone who is tired of London is tired of life. Londoners are heading for the coast in droves.

houses have their own moorings (£701 a year for maintenance of pontoons and lock-up charges), a car port and first-floor sitting harbour. The M27 is nearby and London is an-hour-and-ahalf away by car.

20 years they lived in Hong Kong, where Peter's office over-

between Hong Kong and

The Reads have bought their Peter and Cynthia Read island home initially as a weekhave a home in London. But for end retreat, but intend to retire

there in a few years' time. "We knew the island had the potenlooked the busy harbour. An experienced sailor, he crewed in the South China Sea Race of the water," says Cynthia Read. "Here, it's almost like being on Manila. When they returned to a boat." Prices on the island start the UK, a home on the coast at £175,000 for a three-bedroom

> gent, by Higgs, in the inseresty market can command £215,000, say busy in Rye and Romney Wallis stayed while developing covering the Solent and New Forest areas," confirms Stephen Montague-Jones of GA Town & Country. "Our usually extensive register of houses between drastically reduced. As properties are sold we see very few new instructions to replace them. "We are rapidly moving

towards a situation where the prices being asked are in line with those at the top of the market in 1989," he adds.

Around Chichester, the erty prices are much higher. A four-bedroom thatched house

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Beaulien River and Lymington, property is selling fast. A threebedroom chapel conversion a mile from the river, with views to the Isle of Wight, is being sold for £275,000 through John D Wood. An old coastguard's cottage within walking distance of "During the past six months with three bedrooms and a accessible because of road owned by the Ministry of we have seen a fundamental walled courtyard with sail store, improvements, we've been very Defence. It was where Sir Barnes

agents Paul Jackson. Brighton, once thought too far for a daily trip into the capital, is now home to so many daily commuters it is considered £300,000 and £1m has been London by the sea. The journey a European Development time into Victoria by rail is 51 minutes, there are six trains an hour (serving Victoria and London Bridge) and the annual season ticket costs £2,460. All of which compares favourably with parts of Hertfordshire and

Buckinghamshire, where prop-

Brighton's Regency terraces, overlooking the sea, costs from £100,000.

"There are so many places now very good value for money," says Ian Davies, of Black Horse Agencies. "The Marshes and there is a significant increase in business around the Solent."

The Thanet area in Kent is having money poured into it as Area, attempting to balt a decline which has seen some parts become quite seedy. Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Cliftonville, once popular seaside areas, are hoping for be looking for higher prices, speedy restoration. In Cliftonville, near Margate, a if the shortage of homes to buy

first-floor flat in one of with open fireplaces, beams, two garages and mature garden, is offered for sale through Black Horse at £175,000. The same type of property in Berksbire would cost three times as much. At Reculver, near Herne Bay

in Kent, Calcutt Maclean is sellthe yacht marina at Lymington. Sussex and Kent coasts are more ing the Old Mill House, once the bouncing bomb. The Grade II-listed four-bedroom house a mile from the sea comes with an 18th-century windmill. The asking price is £175,000.

Sussex East and West, and Hampshire, are seeing the fastest price increases. "As houses come fresh to the market in the spring," says Stephen Montague-Jones, "owners will which are likely to be achieved

What you can buy beside the sea

In St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, White Cottage is a three-bedroom weather boarded house, 400 wards from Bay Hill which leads to the beach. With double garage, it's for sale through Geering & Colyer for £149,950 (01304 207099). Five miles from Chichester, Old Cottage Row is near the end of an unmade lane, a mile-and-ahalf from the nearest village. The four-bedroom whitewashed thatched cottage has a woodburning stove in the drawing room

(01243 787711). The Iron House on Rock Channel, Rye, looks across working boat yards. It has a ground floor workshop, first floor drawing room, and an outside balcony garden with views over the Tillingham and Rother rivers. For sale through Phillips and Stubbs for £127,500 (01797

Virginia Cottage in Climping, West Sussex, is half a mile down a country lane to the sea. The threebedroom period cottage with Aga in the kitchen has inglenook fireplaces, cottage gardens, woodland and an acre of agricultural ground. GA is asking £265,000 (01903 744342).

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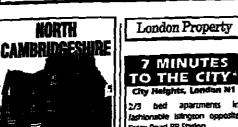
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Keep the family in it

Roger Bell compares the Citroën Synergie with the Nissan Terrano

"lifestyle" off-roaders, most of which crunch nothing more demanding than manicured gravel, seems to have peaked. After a decade of dramatic boom (sales rose from under 13,000 in 1986 to over 80,000 last year) 4WD registrations have levelled off. By the end of the year, they may even be in

Not so MPVS. Multi-purpose vehicles - boring vans with windows to cynics, revolutionary family holdalis to the converted - are gnaving into the market across a broad front. Just over 7,000 were registered in Britain five years ago when the pioneering Renault Espace led the field. The forecast this year is for nearer 30,000, with the lion's share going to the excellent Ford Galaxy and its VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra clones. By the turn of the century, it's esti-mated that 600,000 MPVs a year will

have been sold in Europe.

Traditional estate cars have not been the invading MPVs' only victims. Off-roaders - perhaps better described as all-purpose all-roaders - are among their conquests, too. And why not? Size for size, these two specialised breeds have much in

The 4x4 Nissan Terrano (the Ford Maverik's twin) and the Citroen Synergie (made alongside the joint-venture Fiat Ulysse and Peugeot 806) may be from different market sectors but they're competitive on price, power and seven-seater accommodation. While the big, butch, all-drive Terrano can clearly out-scramble the front-drive Synergie, it is on suburban tarmac that the two usually compete.

Although similar in size, the Synergie, unencumbered by the weight of a 10-speed, 4x4 transmission system, is considerably lighter - to the benefit of performance and, more significantly, economy. It's also easier to drive, not least because the gearlever, which protrudes from a classy dash, feels less agricultural than the Nissan's. Much as I like the articulation than ride comfort. Even effortless mid-range punch of the on decent roads, the Nissan bobs



MPVs and off-roaders: size for size, these two specialised breeds have much in common

torquey Terrano's civilised 2.7 litre turbo-diesel, the 2.0-litre petrol engine of the test Citroën is smoother, quieter and niftier through the gears. Parity in performance (but not in economy) is achieved only when the Terrano's thirsty 2.4-litre petrol engine is pitched against the Citroën's frugal 1.9 turbo-diesel.

Driven with restraint, the Terrano

behaves with reasonable decorum.
Pushed beyond its natural ambling gait, though, it feels cumbersome. Steering is sluggish and vague, cornering grip modest. Like most offroaders, the Terrano lacks the stance, agility and tenacity of a lowslung saloon. It's the price you pay for massive boulder-straddling ground clearance and fairly crude suspension designed more for acute

and the gold into

and jerks harshly, albeit without kettledrum thumping from the big (and very expensive) tyres. The cabin is well isolated from road noise by a separate rugged chassis.

From the driver's seat, the Cit-

roën Synergie looks, feels and behaves much more like a normal saloon. Although the roofline is high the centre of gravity is quite low. Whereas the Terrano perches on the road, as if on stilts, the Synamic riding or smaller wheels and ergie, riding on smaller wheels and more sophisticated car-like suspension, squats on it. Handling and cornering benefit from this, though the ride is disappointingly

You sit a couple of inches taller in the Terrano, all the better for sightseeing and hazard spotting. However, the versatile Synergie has the more their luggage) speedily, economically imposing cabin and dash. Its individ-

ual seats - rows two and three served by easy-sliding doors - can be juggled around or discarded altogether. In the Terrano, only the uncomfortable rear bench can be removed. With all the seats in place, luggage space is pretty meagre in both cars.

If you really need mud-plugging, bank-climbing, stream-fording, precipice-defying transport, the Terrano's your car. Recent major improvements have elevated this rather gawky-looking vehicle from wime to precipe huilt like a top and wimp to warrior, built like a tank and well endowed (the turbo-diesel is all muscle). As a road-going people carrier for the urban jungle, though, it is over-specified and under-achieving. The Synergie - a good MPV but not the best - makes a better job of transporting seven adults (if not

Citroën Synergie: Price: £16,200 to £23,090 according to specification. Engine: 1.9-litre, 92bhp turbo-diesel or 2.0-litre 123bhp petrol. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top

speed 99mph; 0-60mph in 13.9 sec-

onds, 31.7mpg urban cycle (diesel); 110mph, 0-60mph in 12.1 seconds,

23.9mpg urban cycle (petrol) Nissan Terrano: Price: £16,600 to £23,100 according to specification. Engine: 2.7-litre, 125bhp turbodiesel or 2.4-litre, 118bhp petrol. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox, part-time four-wheel drive with selectable low-ratio, auto-locking front hubs. Performance: top speed 96mph, 0-60mph in 16.2 seconds, 22.6mpg urban cycle (diesel); 99mph, 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds,

17.9mpg urban cycle (petrol).



Buttons on radios are invariably tiny, suitable only for people who have fingers shaped like E

f the innumerable design solecisms to be found on cars, none is more repulsive to the eye and more awkward to the hand than the typical radio. And that's before we talk about its sound quality: (In general, car radios - at least those fitted as standard by most manufacturers - sound appalling. This is no wonder. I have it on good authority that one major manufacturer buys its standard-specification radio/cassette players for only £20 - well under a tenth of what the same manufacturer charges for

replacement units.) Their poor sound quality is, arguably, excusable – after all, how many of us notice that they're so bad? But their shoddy appearance and usability are certainly not. In the main, they are just plastic-faced boxes fitted willy-nilly to some convenient (for the manufacturer, not for the

user) position on the dash. Their buttons are invariably tiny, suitable only for people who have fingers shaped like ET And what's more, the buttons have graphics which are incomprehensible to most punters. As an upshot, I'll wager that most buttons on car radios are never pushed, twirled or pulled.

In the old days, car radios tended to have two big round knobs - one for on/off and volume, the other for channel selection. Push buttons helped to locate your pre-programmed channels. This design worked well and looked good. It should never have changed. But it did. We have been confused ever since.

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At long last there are signs of improvement. The new Ford Ka has a radio designed to integrate into the dash, rather than merely have a rectangular hole into which some radio manufacturer can insert its latest multi-channel. multi-watt eyesore. The Ka has big knobs and buttons, just like old-fashioned radios, designed to be pushed by fingers not pins. I mastered it in minutes, rather than remaining baffled by it for

Other manufacturers are now also making an effort. Most praiseworthy is the new Renault Espace, on sale in the UK next spring. It has no radio visible at all. This clearly deters the hooligan who, judging by the number of car radios stolen, seems to be the only person who understands modern car radios.

In the Espace, the radio's electronics are all hidden under the bonnet. Controls are mounted on satellites either side of the steering wheel. Renault pioneered satellite controls, a major and yet unsung contribution to road safety, now copied by the likes of BMC and Jaguar (on its new XK8 sports car) among many other makers. They allow channels to be changed and the volume to be altered without taking your eye off the road and groping around at the bottom of the dash for those wretched little buttons. The Espace, though, now takes

the concept a stage further. By removing the radio head unit from the dash, Renault has also improved the cabin design. After all, what better way of tidying up the interior than by getting rid of its ugliest feature?

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